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THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2011

Former Cowbridge student calls for residents' support...

GEORGE LOOKING FORWARD TO MR WALES CHALLENGE

A FORMER Cowbridge student who will be competing in the final of 'Mr Wales' in July, is appealing for support from local residents.

George Blick, who now lives in Llantwit Major and is a former pupil at Cowbridge, should certainly be at home on the stage of St David's Hall, Cardiff, where the final will take place.

Now aged 20, he is in his final year at Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom, Surrey, one of the UK's top performing arts colleges.

In fact, throughout his time at Cowbridge Comprehensive, George was no stranger to the spotlight, first applying his skills to line dancing – and becoming first

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Welsh and then world champion!

He branched out into ballroom and Latin dancing as well, and was successful in a number of competitions in that discipline, too.

After two years in theatre school, George has developed his acting and singing, and has also extended his dance education to include ballet, contemporary, tap and several other styles.

His theatre course has also involved signing up for pantomime work, and in each of the last two years, George has worked with Brian Conley in Southend-on-Sea and in the New Theatre, Cardiff.

He is aiming to follow a career in dance and told The GEM: "I will be leaving college in the summer, and everyone has to get noticed, so I decided to enter the Mr Wales competition."

He is now one of 42 who will contest the July final, but ITV is going to feature eight contestants and follow their progress in the weeks leading up to the final.

George said: "It would be good to be one of the eight they select. We all have to try to raise money for the Joshua Foundation charity, so I am hoping my events might be featured."

George is planning to return to his roots and put on a line dance social, and is also planning a kayaking fundraising event. The dates have yet to be set.

So, what is involved in the actual Mr Wales final?

George said: "You have to parade along the catwalk three times – in casual dress, in swimwear, and in evening dress – and there is also an interview with the host or hostess."

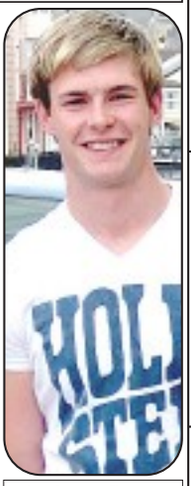
As far as the clothing is concerned, George is being sponsored by Dyfed Menswear, and he has plenty of support back home.

He said: "My belief is that if you put your mind to anything you can achieve it.

"You just need to stay focused, determined and motivated. I have a strong network of family and friends who are the backbone of my life, and who support me in everything I do.

"I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead for me in the Mr Wales final."

For information on how to support George, visit the website www.GeorgeBlick.co.uk



ABOVE: George Blick is hoping to impress the judges at the Mr Wales finals in July.

Llandow drilling prompts water supply concern

THE recent public meetings about the application to drill for gas at Llandow, aired concerns about possible damage to Cowbridge's back-up water supply.

Although the application is now on hold, pending a noise impact test, it was revealed that a local aquifer has been used to provide Cowbridge with its drinking water – and is still pencilled in as a back-up.

For a fuller report, see page 10 article 'Fight will go on against fracking'.

Royal celebrations!

THE indoor 'street party' in Cowbridge Town Hall – a chance to celebrate the royal wedding without worrying about the weather – is shaping up to be a great success.

At this week's meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, members were told that 62 local residents had already signed up!

There is room for more. Enquiries to the town clerk on 01446 773385.

• ***See also our special eight-page royal wedding supplement, beginning on page 21).***

Pub is in the pink!

THE White Lion pub in Ystradowen has had a pink makeover as part of its drive to raise funds for breast cancer care.

The fundraising starts with a royal wedding extravaganza on April 29!

See page 24 for details of the White Lion's charity celebration day.

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Welcome progress on the Barry Docks Link Road

AS one of the local councillors, I have been campaigning for a safe solution to the traffic problems on the Barry Docks Link Road particularly at the Coldbrook Road East and Argae Lane Junctions.

I therefore welcome the report at the last economy and environment scrutiny meeting, on the highway safety proposals, suggesting that the traffic signal option is the most appropriate long-term scheme to address the highway safety concerns.

As someone who also uses the Docks Link Road almost daily, I have felt for a long time that traffic lights would be the best option and made that suggestion at the outset, so I am pleased that at long last a final decision has been made.

However, at that meeting it was also made clear that the Vale Council would be applying for a grant from the Welsh Assembly and also South East Wales Transport Alliance to progress this work; so let's hope that is successful before there are any more accidents.

In the interim, I welcome the installation of the new flashing warning signs to reduce speed, which was agreed at a previous economy and environment meeting, when the issues were discussed.

Coun Anne Moore, Barry.

Flexibility needed for local homes

NOW it is official that the Cowbridge lower school is for sale, perhaps the Vale planning office should give some sympathy and consideration to the development of properties for the more senior citizens of Cowbridge who wish to downsize and move closer to the amenities and facilities in the centre of town.

I realise that the site is prime for development and will probably sell to the highest bidder, which is understandable, but surely some consideration can be made when such developers submit planning applications, that will allow some apartments or bungalows for either the elderly or first time buyers.

Young people born and brought up in Cowbridge are not able to afford to live here, and have to go out of town.

Cowbridge has enough 'exclusive executive' properties. People who have lived in Cowbridge for many years are not able to downsize, as there are not enough smaller properties.

Also, there is only Longmeadow Court or Southways that cater for elderly residents.

Additionally, as the lower school site belonged to Cowbridge comprehensive school, surely sympathetic use will benefit the residents of the town in the futur?

It begs the question, why was the planning application turned down for flats on the site of the old British Legion Club at the rear of the town hall?

Yet planning was granted for three-storey properties.

I would be interested to know why.

Jan Ferris, Cowbridge.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is enough being done to cater for the housing needs of older citizens in Cowbridge? If you have a view, email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk or write to The GEM at the address given below.

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Do local residents know what LDP really means for the Vale?'

WE are a recently-formed group of Barry residents who share some of Mr Chris Franks' concerns regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) and the more than 300 candidate sites submitted within the county as a whole.

'Highlight Organisation to Protect our Environment' has no political affiliation and only intends to inform, not scaremonger.

We are fully aware that not all of these sites will feature in the final document but would like to take this opportunity to pick up on Councillor James' comments in The GEM.

He refers to these documents as being in the public domain for nearly three years, but we would argue that the public have not particularly been made aware that they exist. Being in the public domain and being public knowledge are quire clearly two distinctly different things.

We would wager that most of your readers would not have been aware of them until recent potential housing developments came to light, and Mr Franks' comments were carried in The GEM

At one meeting recently, there wasn't a single person present who was even aware that public consultation had already taken place on the LDP.

Could Coun James explain what form this took, what the outcomes are, and when the next consultation period starts?

Also, why isn't the wider public being made more aware of the due process taking place to create the new LDP?

There are a lot of people that don't even know what LDP is an abbreviation for, never mind what the consequences of it could be for them.

One of our aims is to make people more aware of exactly what it will mean and how it could affect our communities and environment.

The Welsh Assembly Government suggests that there is a need for at least 7,500 homes to be built within the Vale.

We understand that the council would prefer that this housing development takes place within Barry, although there are no current proposals that we are aware of for improving the roads into and through the town.

We have 67 houses being built by Taylor Wimpey adjacent to Pencoedtre Woods and, across the road, the new crematorium is due to open in October this year.

We shan't know for sure until then what affect these two 'minor' developments will have on the already heavily congested Port Road – but we are less than optimistic.

Martin Coles,
(Secretary, Highlight Organisation to Protect our Environment).

FoE ARGUMENT WINS THE DAY

WITH regard to WRG's proposals for a waste incinerator in Cadoxton, it appears that the company accepted the wider environmental implications that FoE pressed them to answer.

We pointed out that Prosiect Gwyrdd is claiming CO2 emissions from waste burning is 'industrial', even though projects don't meet minimum levels for efficient recovery of energy.

The waste company WRG's press statements on 'benefits for sustainability' rely on giving responsibility for the 200 000 tonnes of CO2 pa to Dow Corning.

This makes out that waste-incinerator electricity is 'low carbon', whereas in truth it is very high carbon, 50 per cent or so above Aberthaw's (900 kg per megawatt-hour).

It's not only a hidden cost of about £0.6 million pa and problems of toxic ash up to 70,000 tonnes pa, but also significant worsening of Dow Corning's environmental statistics.

FoE's anti-incineration arguments did win support from local MP Alun Cairns and from Labour and Plaid Cymru councillors. UKIP are using our material in an election leaflet, but did not participate even in the public inquiry.

Nor did Plaid's Ian Johnson, whose equivocal statements (GEM April 14) echo those of the Plaid leadership's supporting of Prosiect Gwyrdd in Cardiff and Caerphilly.

That 5-council plan for municipal waste is not commercial, but dependent on £9 million pa public subsidy and 'predominantly' or wholly private finance (PFI) pricing with a huge rake-off to the banks.

The issue is not whether privatising waste disposal would be effective and efficient, as Ian Johnson says, but the council's decision to limit recycling to 65 per cent, and take on a 25-year contract for costly and inflexible incineration technology.

Max Wallis
(Barry and Vale FoE)

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Just visit: *www.barry-today.co.uk, www.cowbridge-today.co.uk or www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk*

Island spending must show a 'net benefit'

THE GEM's recent article entitled 'As traders prepare for new season... is town making the most of its tourism industry?' is very topical and raises pertinent questions on the role of Barry Island and its tourist industry.

For many years, there has been a constant stream of projects that have focused on trying to attract tourists to Barry Island.

There seems to be unwillingness by both the council and some council taxpayers to accept that the Island may never even be economically self-sustaining as a tourist destination, let alone be an income-generating asset for the area.

The tourist parts of it bear more than a passing resemblance to the aftermath of a civil war: barbed wire and metal spike fencing left over from the Butlins camp; the rubble-strewn remains of the old Butlins camp itself; the dilapidated toilet block; and the bricked-up old shops on Nells Point.

If there is a proven case for Barry Island as a tourist destination going forward, then why are these often long standing issues allowed to endure?

We should not support the continued spending of significant money to either support a very small community of traders who work from Barry Island or to foster the notion that the island can be returned to an (almost mythical) place of attraction to visitors and inhabitants alike – unless that spending also provides a provable net benefit to the local taxpayer.

(Name and address supplied)

John says 'thank you'

THROUGH The GEM, I would like to thank all my customers who frequented John's Barber Shop (est 1986) in Church Street, Llantwit Major.

I have spent 25 happy years in the shop, but have had to retire due to sudden ill health.

Once again, I would like to thank my customers very much for their support and wish them well.

J L (John) Evans, Rhoose.

'Scaremongering' over Dinas Powys?

WITHIN the last two weeks, I have become aware of a very concerning letter that has been circulated around a number of areas of Dinas Powys by Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks.

The letter seems to present itself as some sort of warning concerning the imminent threat about housing development on about 400 acres of land around the village of Dinas Powys.

I was quite taken aback by this and in conversations around the village it is obvious that this letter has caused substantial worry and upset to residents living near some of the so called proposed development areas.

In one case, local Murch residents have already considered starting a campaign and petition, believing the building developments to be imminent.

It seemed quite obvious to me that many hundreds of houses were not going to be built on 400 acres of land. Therefore, enquiries were made with the council offices to clarify what exactly is going on.

It appears quite clear that Mr Franks had been, to say the least, somewhat disingenuous.

The expressions of interest from landowners mentioned by Mr Franks were solicited by the council, so that they could have an indication as to who 'might' be interested in selling their land for development at a future date.

This is part of the medium to long-term planning that is being undertaken throughout the Vale.

Furthermore, there is no plan, or will there be any plan, to build houses on all 400 acres, and neither is there any proposal to build on any of the land in the immediate future.

So I am now left wondering two things:

Firstly; why Mr Franks could not have checked this with the council offices himself, or with his Plaid Cymru colleagues on the Vale Council – unless, of course, it was 'politically convenient' for him not to know?

Secondly; why does he think that it is acceptable to put out such a piece of blatant scaremongering, which has already caused much confusion and concern in and around the village?

Nigel Streeter, Dinas Powys
(*Member of local Conservative branch*)

Butlins reunion:

calling all ex-staff!

I AM organising a reunion for all ex-employees of the Butlins/Majestic holiday camp, to re-unite old friends who worked at the campsite over the years it was open.

We are holding a disco/karaoke in Shadows nightclub (the old Dolphin) at 8pm - –2am on July 9.

We are looking for anyone who worked there and would dearly love to meet up with old friends. We have people coming from all over the country; the tickets are £5 each, purely to cover the cost of the hall, barstaff and disco.

If you require a ticket, please e-mail me on *scottydotty1@live.co.uk* or find me on Facebook.

I look forward to seeing you there. We held a reunion last year and it was great – we hope this year will be bigger and better!

Dot Boyle, Sully.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	10.20	9.8	22.43	9.7
22 Fri	11.08	9.4	23.23	9.3
23 Sat	11.51	8.8		
24 Sun	00.15	8.7	12.41	8.1
25 Mon	01.11	7.6	13.39	7.5
26 Tues	02.19	7.6	14.58	7.3
27 Wed	03.41	7.5	16.17	7.6
28 Thur	04.51	7.9	17.22	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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'Inspiring' story will launch the book festival

THE Cowbridge Book Festival, which aims to raise funds for the charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, is to be launched by former football international Geoff Thomas.

On Friday, May 6, Geoff, who played for England nine times and captained Crystal Palace in the 1990 FA Cup Final, will make the first author presentation of his new book *Riding Through the Storm* at Old Hall in the town.

It is appropriate that Geoff is going to open the festival as he has raised more than £1million for research since his recovery from leukaemia.

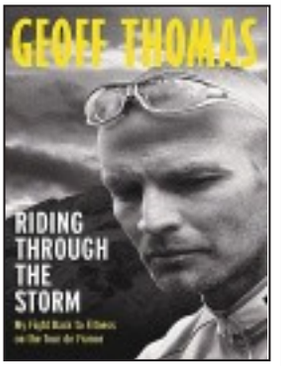
Riding Through the Storm focuses on his journey around the 2,240-mile Tour de France in the 21 days it takes the top cyclists. Despite the odds, he rode the course and raised more than £200,000 for the charity!

A spokesperson for the book festival said: "Geoff has a powerful, moving and inspirational story of extraordinary achievement."

May 6 also sees the opening of the festival's photographic exhibition in the Old Hall. Two well known local photographers, Mike Davies and Dave Allen will be exhibiting a wide range of their favourite photographs.

Mike has been a keen photographer for more than 30 years. He is an associate of the Welsh Photographic Federation and last year was awarded the much coveted Distinction of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

Dave Allen is also a AWPF. Many of his photographs have been taken while trekking in the Himalayas and Annapurnas.



Geoff Thomas will launch the Cowbridge Book Festival with a talk on how he used the Tour de France to recover his fitness.

The festival launch is at 7pm on May 6 at Old Hall Cowbridge and tickets are available from Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827, Ron O'Leary 01446 774986 and David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge, and at Old Hall itself.

There are now 28 authors who have agreed to appear at the festival including Alastair Campbell, John Hartson, Adam Hochschild, Dai Smith, and Jamie Owen. Topics will range from history to crime, travel to bird watching.

More details are available on the website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk.

LLANSANNOR AND LLANHARRY CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL

PUPILS LEARN LESSONS FROM WELSH CAVE RESCUE TEAM...

Class P3 with the team's all-terrain ambulance and specially designed cave stretcher.

THE South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team visited a lcal school to give pupils an insight into an emergency service with a difference.

Pupils in four classes at Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School got to see and experience some of the equipment used in some of the most demanding environments in Wales.

The Cave Rescue Team has been visiting local schools and organisations to raise awareness and to help promote the sport of caving.

More information about cave rescue is on the website www.smwcrt.org. **PH**

Pupils get hitched in royal-style!

THE 'Royal Wedding' celebrations started early at Llansannor, where children, parents and staff have been busy preparing to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Bunting made by the children now adorns almost every inch of the school and on entering the school foyer, visitors are greeted by an enormous collage of the wedding party, made by year-3 and nursery children.

The celebrations started with the traditional 'Easter Hat Parade' becoming a 'Royal Wedding Hat Parade'. The designs were very impressive and imaginative.

Rev David Boult officiated at the mock wedding, where bride and groom, bridesmaids and pageboys from each class, ushers, queen and prince and 200 other guests attended.

The wedding was followed by a street party, where the whole school enjoyed the after dinner speeches and, of course, the food!

Many thanks should go to all the staff, parents and children for their hard work and we look forward to celebrating for a second time on April 29.

AP

Bluebirds save the school sports day

'Thank you Dave Jones and Cardiff City!'

LLANSANNOR Church in Wales Primary School would like to say a big 'thank you' to Cardiff City manager Dave Jones, for his help in solving a problem with our school field.

Deputy head Mr K East, was concerned about the state of the field to such an extent that he considered it would not be safe to use for sports day this year.

A school spokeswoman said: "Dave Jones stepped in and brought along Cardiff City's groundsman to help iron out many of the bumps and give the field a really good 'short back and sides'!"

The ancient art and power of reflexology

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM THE YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI

On April 6, one of our warm spring days, the ladies from Ystradowen and District WI met at the village hall to listen and learn about the ancient art of reflexology.

Our speaker was Jacquie Thomas, a qualified reflexologist who practices here in our own village.

Jacquie was assisted by Maggie Sutton, also a qualified reflexologist.

Jacquie spoke briefly about the techniques and benefits of reflexology. It is an ancient skill dating back as far as 2,500BC.

The Egyptians, ancient Indians and native Americans of the Cherokee tribes also practiced this art.

The principles of reflexology are that reflex zones are mapped out on your feet and can affect the workings of the entire body.

The reflexologist massages these reflex points and this may help to activate the body's natural healing process.

Jacquie then asked for volunteers so that she and Maggie could demonstrate their skills. There was no shortage of willing volunteers.

All the volunteers enjoyed the experience It was a most interesting and informative demonstration and Pam Robbins gave Jacquie and Maggie an enthusiastic 'thank you' on behalf of the members.

After our usual tea break and a chance to enjoy a chat with friends, the chairperson Jan Foyle conducted the business for the month.

We discussed our forthcoming trips to Blenheim Palace and Denman College.

It was agreed we would take part in the annual Macmillan sponsored walk, and enthusiastically agreed to have a pub meal at the end of it!

Our next coffee morning will take place at The White Lion on Wednesday, April 27 at 11am, and the May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4 at 7.45pm.

Visitors and new members will be made very welcome.

EILEEN LOVE

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Spring draw

WINNER of the 100 Club spring draw at St Mary Hill Church, St Mary Hill, are Mr J Howells, Mrs Harris, Miss Rachel Vaughan-Jones, Mrs J Workall and Mrs and Mrs P Rees.

The next draw will take place in June.

Reminder

A DAWN service will take place at St Mary Hill Church at 5.15am on Sunday, April 24 when breakfast will be served.

Saron chapel

A SERVICE will take place at 3pm on April 24, conducted by Rev Alwyn Evans.

Sympathy

YOUNG at Heart Club members were shocked to hear of the sudden death of club member Mr Gordon Lewis, who appeared well last Thursday and was looking forward to the club's summer trip this week.

Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

A 'rocking good time' at the Millennium Centre

COLWINSTON AND LLYSWORNEY WI

THIS month, 20 members went to the Millennium Centre to see 'We Will Rock You', and, yes, we knew all the words to the songs and had a rocking good time.

The speakers in April were Linda Wade and Christine Nicholas who gave us an illustrated talk on 'The Rest', Porthcawl.

With much humour and many anecdotes we learned of its beginnings in the late 1800s to the present day.

We shall certainly be visiting for morning coffee and lunch when the Open Day is announced.

A visit to Parc Cefn On is planned for May with afternoon tea afterwards.

The Denman Bursary draw was made and members were asked to help with the Royal Wedding Children's Tea Party and the Open Gardens afternoon tea.

The next meeting is 'Resolutions' at which we will debate the closure of local libraries and the proposals for mega farms.

There will be a book and plant stall and wine and nibbles will be served. All are welcome on May 9 in the village hall at 7.30pm.

KATH JONES

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THE CHURCHES COME TOGETHER FOR PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MORE than 50 people joined the Palm Sunday procession organised by Cowbridge Churches Together last Sunday, April 17.

The procession was led by donkeys on loan from Bryndafydd Animal Assisted Therapy – an old favourite Polo and 10-month-old Cariad.

It began at the United Free Church and finished outside the town hall with a short service. Stopping to sing outside Tesco, allowed people from Holy Cross and St Cadoc's to join the procession after morning services.

During the procession, blessings and palm crosses were given to people in the street. At the end of the procession, a collection was made of good quality secondhand clothes, to be donated to local charities, Oxfam and 'Welcome the Stranger'. This was to commemorate the Bible story that tells how people laid their cloaks on Jesus' donkey and in the road.

The chair of Cowbridge Churches Together, Rosemary Samuel, said: "We've enjoyed this procession and the companionship between our churches; together marking the events of Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

"We hope we have touched the lives of people and reminded them of what Easter is all about."

Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

Investigation into boarding house fire was 'inconclusive'

THE Fire Service has now completed an investigation into a blaze at Atlantic College, St Donat's, last Tuesday, April 12.

Seven fire crews attended the emergency after a fire started in the Sunley boarding house at around mid-day.

Staff and students were safely evacuated, and no one was injured.

A spokesperson for the college stated: "Following the fire incident that devastated Sunley boarding house, the Fire Service has completed the investigation into the cause of the fire.

"The conclusions from the investigation were that the fire had started in the upstairs quiet room of the house and that the inquiry into the cause was inconclusive."

ABOVE: The rear view of Sunley boarding house while the Fire Service were fighting the blaze.

The spokesperson went on: "Insurance assessors are currently looking at the building, and although both floors and the roof of the building were damaged as a result of the incident, a complete re-build may not be required. However, at this stage, nothing is confirmed.

"The students that were residents of Sunley boarding house are living in accommodation within the 12th century St Donat's Castle and continue to receive the full support of the college community.

"Some were fortunate enough to be able to retrieve most of their personal possessions, others, unfortunately, lost everything.

"We can confirm that the incident will not affect next year's intake numbers and that the education programme continues as normal."

Atlantic College welcomes students from around the world, and its role is to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

Llangan's floral dragon: *WHAT A SHOW-STOPPER!*

LLANGAN Primary School's Gardening Club has been celebrating its success in finishing second at the Royal Horticultural Show's school wheelbarrow competition.

The RHS flower show was held last weekend at Bute Park, Cardiff. Visitors viewed 73 wheelbarrows from schools across the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Caerphilly.

The Gardening Club at Llangan designed and painted their wheelbarrow depicting the Welsh dragon. The children used red flowers and foliage, weaved recycled red plastic bags into the dragon head, body and tail.

The children made willow wings and all members of the club printed their own hands on the side of the barrow to represent scales.

"We are thrilled to have come second as this is the first time we have entered the competition!" said Mr Williams, the deputy headteacher.

"We are very proud of the children, staff and parents who worked hard during gardening club."

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Llantwit craft fair wins high praise

WHILE visiting Llantwit Major craft and gift fair, Jane Hutt is pictured chatting to Anthea Pryer on her cards and gift stall.

The Assembly candidate congratulated the organisers, craftspeople and artists for a "magnificent display".

Y Bont Faen pupils have 'Egg-citing' Easter fun

LEFT: Some of the winning entries.

John Howell, junior Karate champion.

Olivia Browning's Humpty-style egg.

Ollie and George – looking forward to an Easter brownie treat.

Y BONTFAEN Primary certainly had an Eggstravaganza before all the 'Eggcitement' of breaking up for Easter holidays!

The KS1 children had special activities including egg hunts and egg rolling races – rolling their decorated eggs down the steep bank. There was no hope for any Mr H Dumpties in that one!

The nursery children went home with so many beautiful things that they had made for the Easter celebrations. Reception had to go on an Eggspedition to find their eggs.

The PTA event this year was an Easter egg decoration competition and there were so many lovely Egghibits that deputy head Mr Lloyd had a difficult task in judging the winning entries!

Well done to Molly Gambling (Y6), Tayler Nairn (Y5), Ben Evans (Y4), Elin Morris (Y3), Rhys Prichard and Alys Roberts (Y2), Stanley Isles (Y1), James Lord (Reception), Rose Price and Mishca Parry in nursery who all came first in their year and won a lovely chocolate Easter egg, egg timer and certificate.

Mr Lloyd also awarded commendations for Eve Gambling, Zoe Champion and Finley Floyd for their Eggcellent effort which won them sweets and an egg timer too!

The final event of the day was the star assembly - with more than 40 nominations! Mr Griffiths was trying to read very fast as he was quickly running out of time after presenting all the Easter prizes and star awards! However, he did set aside a little time for four year-5 boys, John Howell, Harri Hartmann, Harvey Stacey and William Davies, who put on a spectacular karate demonstration for the children after they had all recently won awards in their various clubs.

John Howell showed the children his Samurai warrior trophy which he had won for becoming the Welsh Karate under-11 champion.

To end the day, the children were given Easter eggs from the PTA in the usual tradition and many more from their teachers! Chocolate heaven.

JAYNE MORRIS

£750 is raised for Guide hut

THANK YOU to all the people who supported the Trefoil Guild coffee morning at West Farm, Llantwit Major and a big thank you to Mrs Heather March, who hosted it.

We raised £750 in aid of the refurbishment of the local Guide hut.

The Trefoil Guild is open to anyone who is interested in helping the Guide or Scout Movements. Our next meeting,on April 28 at 7.30pm, will be a beetle drive .

Kath Morgan

PASSION PLAY

AN Easter passion play is being staged at Holy Cross Church, in Cowbridge tomorrow (Good Friday).

Two performances will take place, at 11am and 2.30pm. Tickets are £2.

School greener and greener...

Y BONT FAEN Primary School's ECO-minded pupils have been spurred into action and have begun a little spring cleaning of their own!

Last year, the PTA joined forces with the ECO council pupils to recycle as much as possible – but with a twist – to earn money for the school! They canvassed the parents to bring in any old unwanted clothes, linen and soft toys in order to sell them to Bags4schools at 40p a kg.

They raised £530 last year and have just collected another 400kg this year!

The children have decided to buy two new slides for school, which will be installed in the steep banks of the school playing field, They are really excited!

The PTA have also just given them a further £3,500 to purchase an extension to their outdoor adventure trail.

We are also hoping to build an ECO greenhouse with 2lt clear pop/water bottles and it is estimated that this will take approx 1,500 to complete the project.

I think the school is becoming so green that our red uniforms may need a colour overhaul shortly!

JM

Barry Island Pleasure Park

The Fun Fair is open every day throughout the Easter Holidays and May Day Bank Holidays, then open every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday until the School Summer Holidays, then open every day.

Many exciting new rides including the £1½ million HIGH ROLLER

Come along this Easter!
Reverse Slingshot Bungee fires you 150ft in the air.
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Don't forget to call in to **Cafe Continental** – next door to the Pleasure Park for excellent meals and refreshments

Cowbridge Passion play at Holy Cross

CHURCHES Together in Cowbridge and district are putting on a Passion play with part-time actor Dale Gooding, written by Becky Middelton while she lived and worked in Cowbridge.

Now the Rev Becky Davis, she wrote the play for Cowbridge based on the Gospels and on the Chester Mystery Plays, with the author and all actors drawn from the town.

"We really can claim it as the 'Cowbridge Passion Play'. It was first performed in 1999 and the last performance was seven years ago", said spokeswoman Sue Freeland.

The play is being performed twice – once at 11am and again at 2.30pm on Good Friday, April 22, at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

Tickets £2, are available at the door or call Sue on 07896 830826.

She explained: "In the past, Good Friday was a very quiet day, with no shops or places of work open. Things have changed, and it is good to remember the events of the last days of Jesus' life and what we are celebrating when we have our chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday.

"This Passion Play hopes to bring the meaning of Easter alive and perhaps breathe fresh life into what may have become over-familiar for some people.

"So many people have been involved with the play, we hope that there will be two large audiences to appreciate the work."

GLADIOLI TALK

LLANTWIT MAJOR Horticultural Society will meet on Wednesday, April 27, at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

Mr Robert Evans from Pen y Fai will give a talk on growing gladioli. He won a Chelsea gold medal last year with his gladioli display and was a speaker at this year's RHS Spring Show in Cardiff with a talk on tulips in pots. Admission, refreshments and raffle free. All welcome to attend.

THE STAGECOACH CHILDREN BRING WEST END TO THE VALE

MORE than 200 children from Stagecoach Theatre Arts recently performed in spectacular fashion to a packed auditorium.

This special production featured musical theatre currently playing in London, and was brought to Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre 'Direct from the West End' by the talented children from Stagecoach Bridgend and The Vale.

Principal Helene Reynolds said: "Although we don't promote glitz and glamour, each one of them earned their moment in the spotlight, and it was wonderful for them to get such recognition for their effort and achievement week after week.

"They sang, danced and acted with great skill, confidence and obvious joy in the experience. We are so incredibly proud of them all."

PHOTOGRAPHS by LAURIE GOLDEN

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Cowbridge area Bridge results

COWBRIDGE bridge results for April 11–12. Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, (club night April 11):

First, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner, 72.70 per cent; Second, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 61.79; Third, Mary Moore and Tony Disley, 56.82; Fourth, John Raymond and David Wright, 54.64; Fifth, Pat and Brian Swain, 53.93; Sixth, Sara Bartlett and Margaret Bancroft, 53.90; Sixth, Anne Hughes and John Edwards, 53.90.

There will be no bridge on Easter Monday, but if there are enough members available, we will open on Monday, May 2.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, (club night, April 12):

First, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey, 63.10 per cent; Second, Pat and Brian Swain, 61.11; Third, Ann Miller and Judy Springett, 55.56; Fourth, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker, 55.16; Fourth, Pauline McAllen and Margaret Bancroft, 56.16; Sixth, Terri Pollard and David Wright, 53.97; Sixth, Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 53.97.

Results for April 4; Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, club trophy third round:

First Anne Hughes and John Edwards (61.81 per cent); joint second Vida Halford and Glyn Williams (58.1); joint second John Henson and Geoff Tinkler (58.1); fourth Ray Smith and John Evans (57.87); fifth Bill Turner and Steve Burgoyne (57.64); sixth Mary Moore and John Beard (57.18).

Congratulations go to Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox as winners of the Club Trophy for 2011,

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, Tuesday, April 5, club night:

First Pam Higgs and Joan Bird (60.32); joint second Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts (55.16); joint second Chris and Vince Bennett (55.16); fourth Pat and Brian Swain (54.37); fifth Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard (53.57); sixth Marian East and Pauline McAllen (53.17).

BRIAN SWAIN

Roadworks report

Thompson Street, Barry – temporary traffic control.

Outside the Pelican public house, Ogmore by Sea – temporary traffic control.

Cowbridge Road, Aberthin – temporary traffic control.

Lavernock Road, Penarth – temporary traffic control.

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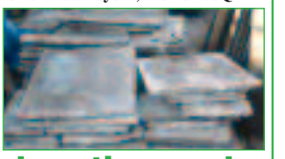
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'LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU!'

Park's rides are better than ever!

AS Barry Island approaches one of the most important periods in the tourism calendar, the man responsible for providing entertainment at the Pleasure Park has promised even more thrills than last year.

Vernon Studt of VAW Studt Funfairs in Swansea moved new rides into the park last year, when he started leasing the site from Ian Rogers.

He told The GEM: "We are now in our second year and will be providing even more entertainment and excitement.

"Ian has moved away some of the old rides which gives space for more new ones."

Vernon, a showman through and through whose family business was founded in 1837, is confident the Pleasure Park is now heading in the right direction.

"We've got the 'Sling Shot' in for Easter. It is a reverse bungee jump which fires people 150 feet into the air.

"Across the May bank holiday we are introducing a ride called 'Speed' which goes 140 feet into the air at 62 miles an hour!

"These are rides which have never been seen before in Barry.

"We've got nine major rides and eight children's rides, and it amounts to a big improvement on last year."

The Pleasure Park opened for the spring and summer season on April 16 and Vernon said the reaction has already been positive.

"The vibes I've had have been very good. The other day I heard someone saying to a friend: 'It's getting back to how it used to be'."

Aside from the new thrill-a-minute rides, Vernon is still providing the traditional attractions such as the dodgems.

The importance of the park is that it is a centrepiece of the Island, providing spin off trade for other businesses. People who visit the park and Cafe Continental also wander down to the Promenade.

The park will be open every day throughout the Easter holidays and up to the end of the May bank holiday – then every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday until the summer holidays.

Three times winner at lamb show

LOCAL farmer John Davies of Wern Fawr Farm, Ystradowen, near Cowbridge, won first prize at the Easter lamb show and sale in Abergavenny for the best pen of light lambs; first prize for the best pen of heavy lambs and the champion pen of lambs.

John and his wife Fiona sell their Glam Lamb at the Vale of Glamorgan Farmers Markets and online at www.glamlamb.co.uk.

John said it was "tremendous recognition" for years of breeding his own flock.

Burglaries: Man charged

A 31-year-old man has been charged with one burglary and two attempted burglaries over the weekend at Cwrt Ty Mawr and Dol Gwartheg, Penarth.

MP attends Dyspraxia Support Group meeting

VALE Dyspraxia Support Group had a visit from Vale MP Alun Cairns, who wanted to hear more about the problems children and young people with dyspraxia encounter.

The MP said that he had recently won an opportunity to propose a debate in Westminster on the provision for children with special educational needs (SEN).

Mr Cairns stated: "I have a particular interest in SEN issues and get frustrated and angry when parents have to fight for the appropriate provision. All too often there is insufficient speech and language and occupational therapy support, which can transform their quality of life.

"It's clear that early diagnosis can reduce the hurdles and challenges faced by those who suffer from dyspraxia. Schools and teachers need support and training in being able to recognise the signs and know how best to deal with the condition – rather than significant numbers of children being excluded for being naughty."

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CHRIST COLLEGE BRECON

CHRIST College has recently been awarded the best possible inspection grades by Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education & Training in Wales.

In its report, the Estyn inspection team judged Christ College to be 'Excellent' in all areas that it assessed and identified significant examples of sector-leading practice.

A particularly pleasing feature of the report is the recognition given to the high standards achieved at Christ College and the quality of provision and support provided to achieve these standards 'Pupils of all ages make very good progress and achieve particularly high standards in public examinations at keys stage 4 and post-16'.

Another feature that was particularly pleasing to the school was the observation that Christ College's 'extensive and enriching extra-curricular activities programme contributes significantly to pupils' personal and social development and their academic progress'. This acknowledges that we teach well beyond and around the narrow requirements of examinations, and believe that education takes place everywhere a pupil goes and not just in the classroom.

At Christ College Brecon we work hard to create a stable environment, with extensive choices under the one roof, where pupils can be happy, grow in confidence and maturity, and thrive academically and in every other way. We pride ourselves on the pursuit of excellence, on encouraging our pupils to find and develop their talents and preparing them for the world beyond school.

To register for our Open Morning on Saturday 7th May, please contact Mrs Stephens on 01874 615440 or via admissions@christcollegebrecon.com.

'SMILE, PLEASE!'

ABOVE: The 'wedding' group poses for the camera.

Llanhari Primary School has Welsh 'royal wedding'!

LLANHARI Primary School celebrated its very own Welsh royal 'wedding' last week.

Everyone dressed for the occasion, the flags were out and a royal garden party concluded the official ceremonies of the day.

The afternoon began with everyone walking down the red carpet of the elaborately decorated hall.

Rev Pitman was dressed for the royal ceremony and staff and guests wore their best attire. Trumpets sounded and Welsh hymns were sung.

The 'happy couple' left in their limousine and arrived to cheers at the garden party.

Headteacher Jeremy Phillips, said: "May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the school who worked so hard to stage the event, Rev Pitman for leading the service, Mrs Jeffs and Mrs Woodland for making the 'wedding cake' and, of course, the children for coming dressed for the occasion.

"May I also make a special mention of Miss Jones and Mrs Hatter for leading the event and the term's work which led to such a wonderful day."

Trip to Kingswood

YEAR-6 had a great time at Kingswood at the end of March.

We were all really proud of our pupils, who were praised by the staff of other schools.

Many of them made new friends from other schools who they will meet in year-7 next year.

May I thank Miss Cleaver and Mr Pitman for looking after our children and attending the three-day residential course in Shropshire.

William and Kate, take note!

Celebrations

AGAIN the children of Llanhari have maintained the tradition and exceeded all expectations this year in the Easter Bonnet Parade and the Egg decorating competition.

The annual 'egg pacing' event also took place which was held outside in the yard. May we thank Mr Francis for judging the competitions and attending the Easter festivities.

Easter Bonnets winners

Class 1 – 1st, Lydia Welch; 2nd, Ben Price; 3rd, Mary Kate Stewart.
Class 2 – 1st, Kian Hucker; 2nd, Kieran Duhig; 3rd, Paris Vowles.
Class 3 – 2nd, Harvey Howell; 3rd, Eleanor Heaslip.
Class 4 – 1st, Levi Lewis; 2nd, Ethan Milsom.

Egg Pacing winners

Class 1 – 1st, Taylor Lewis; 2nd, Mary Kate Stewart; 3rd, Ben Price.
Class 2 – 1st, Jorja Maidment; 2nd, Lloyd Roberts; 3rd, Mason Apsee.
Class 3 – 1st, Cole Gray; 2nd, Kelly Ann Stewart; 3rd, Dylan Rees.
Class 4 – 1st, Katie Bartlett; 2nd, Zander Lowrey; 3rd, Evan Webb.
Class 5 – 1st, Conan Flower; 2nd, Luke Jones; 3rd, Caiyler Howell.
Class 6 – 1st, Joshua Heaslip; 2nd, Ross Cooper; 3rd, Demi Rees.
Class 7 – 1st, Cameron Minnett; 2nd, Sophie Wellington; 3rd, Jessica Wigley.

Decorated Eggs

Class 5 – 1st, Tamzin Phillips; 2nd, Angelica Svensen; 3rd, Tia and Logan Daddow.
Class 6 – 1st, Luke Wigley; 2nd, Selena Lemoneigh; 3rd, Rasmus Thomas.
Class 7 – 1st, Niall Cudmore; 2nd, Carys White; 3rd, Rhys Griffin.
Everyone who entered received a Cadbury's creme egg and the winners won an Easter egg. Well done!

A message from Mr Francis – our very own local historian.

I was delighted to attend the Pace Egg rolling custom at Llanhari Primary School. Mr Peter Townsend and I revived this ancient Easter custom about 30 years ago and I was told that we were the only school in Wales that then did egg rolling!

In earlier times, the custom was performed on any grassy slope up and down the land and usually by children. The custom, I think, has a religious origin. I believe that an egg rolling ceremony is still performed every year on the lawns of the White House in Washington DC.

It was nice to see all the pupils of the school rolling their eggs and enjoying the light hearted competition.

Important announcement affecting your Freeview TV services.

Keep this, it might be useful

Changes are being made to the Wenvoe transmitter on Wednesday 27 April.
If you use a Freeview* TV or box and find you are missing channels you will need to re-tune on or after this date to get them back.

How to re-tune using your TV remote

- Switch on your Freeview TV or Box and press 'menu' on the remote control.
- Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option then 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
- Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
- If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234. Channels will be automatically installed.
  Your equipment may shut down and restart.

These instructions are a guide only. For more detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit **digitaluk.co.uk/retuning** or call **08456 50 50 50**.

Satellite and cable TV sets are not affected.

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Crossing patrols to continue next term

A DECISION has been made by the Vale Council to provide continued cover at four temporary school crossing patrol posts for the forthcoming summer term.

The four school crossing patrols, two sited at Dinas Powys, one in Penarth and the other at Cadoxton, were employed on temporary contracts which came to an end on April 15.

The council had looked to employ additional mobile patrols, which could provide the flexibility of being able to patrol any sites where their presence was needed.

However, following the council advertising for these positions, no applicants have come forward.

As a result, the existing four temporary patrol officers have been offered new temporary contracts to make sure the sites are not unstaffed during the summer term.

Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Council, said: "It has been clear for some time that the council will be undertaking a full review of all school crossing sites to decide which ones require a continued school crossing presence.

"When this matter was discussed at cabinet, I made it abundantly clear that I would not want to see these sites left without patrols in advance of concluding that review and undertaking full risk assessments.

"It is extremely disappointing that there were no applicants for the mobile officer posts but faced with this I am satisfied that we have been able to act quickly and decisively so these sites have patrols in place next term.

"I am also extremely pleased that the previous post holders have indicated that they are in a position to patrol these sites next term."

Coun Jeffrey James, cabinet member for planning and transportation, added: "It's critical that these sites are patrolled, pending the review that will be undertaken, and I'm very pleased that they will continue to be staffed.

"The council's position has not changed on this issue.

"We have always said that the sites would be staffed next term and this remains the case."

Police plea for witnesses

POLICE are reappealing for witnesses to a fatal collision that occurred on Saturday, March 12, shortly after 6.20pm, at Broad Street, Barry.

A spokesperson stated that Mrs Sheila Westoll, from the Barry area, sustained serious injuries after she came into contact with a grey coloured Volkswagen Passat driven by a 53-year-old man, which was travelling along Broad Street from the direction of Park Street.

Officers want to speak to the driver of a silver Fiat Punto who may have witnessed the collision, or saw Mrs Westoll, or the vehicle being driven prior to the collision.

The silver Fiat Punto was said to have travelled down Broad Street and turned into Harbour Road around the time of the incident. Mrs Westoll died on Friday, March 25.

Sgt Louise French said: "If you recognise yourself as the driver of the silver Fiat Punto, or know who the driver could be, please contact police."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the roads policing unit on 01656 869332, 101, or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

A DOG LOVERS' DAY OUT IN COWBRIDGE!

***For more photographs by Paul Jones, go to** Valeevents.co.uk*

DOG lovers were out in force recently in Cowbridge for a Sunday morning canine celebration.

A community dog walk and 'dog do' took place at the Barefoot Studio car park, Eastgate, and was organised by HubCowbridge.

Organiser Debbie Cooke said: "More than 40 dogs and 80 adults and children came along.

"A circular walk in glorious sunshine took in footpaths around the town that were unfamiliar to many, and included a climb up to Mount Ida for the fitter dogs and owners, giving fantastic views over the Vale.

"Thanks go to Steve Harkett from Cowbridge Museum, who entertained the walkers with his historical knowledge of the area.

"After a cooling doggy dip in the River Thaw at Twt Park, it was back to Barefoot Studio carpark, where the Dogs Trust put on obedience demos and dogs and owners took part in fun and games – with treats donated by Arthur John and Co.

"Stefano from West Farm Vets was on hand for pet health advice. Catherine Price and the handsome golden retriever puppy Blake, from Vale Guide Dogs Puppy Walking, were able to raise money with their tombola, and Sheena from Cowbridge WI supplied reviving elderflower cordial."

"Setting off down the High Street was a fantastic sight. Seeing so many people in the community coming together was very fulfilling and more than £50 was raised for Dogs Trust."

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Barry College award winners.

End of an era at Barry College as students celebrate...
FINAL AWARDS EVENING BEFORE MERGER

BARRY Memorial Hall played host to the annual Barry College awards evening – the sixth and last before it merges with Coleg Glan Hafren to become Cardiff and Vale College in August.

To mark the end of the Barry College era and the beginning of what will be one of the biggest colleges in south Wales, student of the year, James Fraser, was commissioned to design an artwork to celebrate more than 50 years of the college.

It was printed on a special commemorative mug for guests. More than 300 people were welcomed by Barry College Principal and Chief Executive Kay Martin

The guests enjoyed a three-course gourmet meal prepared and served by Barry College hospitality and catering learners and staff.

Kay Martin then gave a review of the year, before more than 60 students and staff received awards at the ceremony.

Awards were sponsored by local and national organisations, with their representatives presenting the relevant award to each winner. The University of Glamorgan and University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) were the main sponsors of the event.

The ceremony was hosted by TV presenter Francis Donovan.

One winner was Shani Payter, a 46-year-old from Penarth who returned to education to study an access to higher education (humanities) course.

"I'm chuffed to win this award – I'm really over the moon. It's a big shock!" Shani said.

"I wanted to go to university and realised I needed more qualifications. It was a bit daunting because I'd been out of education for so long. I lived out in South Africa for a while, and I ran a nightclub as well. After that I'd been with the family business for years and really wanted to do something different so I went to College for an interview."

Shani is now studying housing policy and practice at UWIC. She wants to specialise in antisocial behaviour and work in housing.

Cross college and staff awards celebrated learners and staff chosen for outstanding achievements.

Samuel Massie (19) and from Cowbridge, won a cross college award for his work on numerous engineering courses, culminating in him being accepted on to the Pathways to Apprenticeships programme sponsored by British Airways Maintenance Cardiff (BAMC).

"I had finished my GCSEs and wanted to do something more technical.

"I picked up a brochure for ICAT and I decided to take up a course in Aero to see where that would lead me," Samuel explained.

"When I was younger, about 13 or 14, I wanted to be a pilot, but I was diagnosed as dyslexic, which meant I really couldn't be one.

"Seeing as I was interested in technology and was good with my hand skills, I thought – why not put the two together and work with aircraft? That was why I was interested in Barry College."

Staff awards were presented, along with the Principal's award for learner of the year.

The winner was James Fraser who started on a part-time GCSE art and design course and left with a WJEC Foundation Diploma, which led to a place at Bath Spa University studying fine art.

James had also been commissioned to produce a unique piece of artwork – 'Celebrating Success – Dathlu Llwyddiant' – to commemorate the college's final year before its merger.

Following the presentation of the awards, Chair of Governors Peter Cope gave a vote of thanks, congratulating all the award winners.

Winners

Shani Payter, Phillipa Bates, James Butcher, Jenna Heffernan, Gina Hollinshead, Christopher Weedon, Emma Toogood, Andrew Cooper, Andre Marquis, Alec Brereton, Naomi Gilfillan, Gary Carpenter, Pauline Hall, Mitchell Farleigh, John Powell, Dorota Jakimowicz, Daniel Reynolds, Susan Thorne, Sarah Hayes, Nicole French, Laura Hamilton, Nathan Linskey, Lisa Coughlin, April Havard, Sarian Thomas-Jones, Sandra Kubanska.

Principal's awards

WORK-BASED learning, Jordan Price-Davies;
School Link, Christopher Renee; HE of Glamorgan, Sian Jones; Contribution to college life, Danielle Brigham; Learner of the year, James Fraser.

Staff awards

TEAM AWARDS: Cardiff Construction Training Centre Welsh Baccalaureate team, Enterprise and innovation team, Estates team, Hospitality Glamorgan Suite team, Marketing and Communications team,VGTA Quality team.

INDIVIDUAL STAFF: E-learning support assistant Kate Ellaway; Director of Learning (teaching and learning), Emil Evans; motor vehicle technician, Samir Karim; learning assistant, Alison O'Brien; NVQ co-ordinator work based hospitality, cleaning and customer service, Chris Williams.

Employer/partner award**:** Outstanding contribution – British Airways Maintenance Cardiff.

CB

Fight will go on against fracking

by PHILIP IRWIN

CAMPAIGNERS against a controversial plan to drill for shale gas, are planning to continue their fight against the process of 'fracking' – and link up with campaigners around the UK.

The application by Coastal Oil and Gas to do exploratory drilling at Llandow was withdrawn last week (*as was reported in The GEM*) but the company has said that it will be submitted again in the near future.

Louise Evans of 'The Vale Says No' campaign told The GEM that the fight will continue.

She said: "Nothing the company said at the recent Cowbridge public meeting reassured me.

"In fact, the more I learn about the techniques involved in 'fracking', the more I want to make sure that it is banned throughout the UK."

She said that the group will be linking up with other groups to pursue this campaign wherever fracking was suggested.

The group has called for a moratorium on fracking, and has been supported in this call by Alun Cairns MP and Jane Hutt.

At that public meeting, concerns about the future water supply for Cowbridge were raised by local resident Dr Chris Pearce.

Mr Pearce quoted from a letter sent out to by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water in 1996, announcing the "mothballing" of a local borehall into an aquifer, in favour of a new supply from the Llyn Brianne Reservoir in the Towy Valley.

However, the letter had said that the borehole could be brought back into use in an emergency, and Dr Pearce raised his concerns that contamination could occur in the fracking process.

Jane Hutt welcomed the news that Coastal Oil and Gas has since withdrawn its application.

She said: This is a victory for the 'Vale Says No' campaign which was set up a few weeks ago to oppose the drilling for gas in Llandow.

"We must be vigilant now to oppose any further applications for this test drilling in the Vale."

MP joins voluntary concern workshop

TRUSTEES of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC) have held a development workshop – to consider how to improve their support for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Now in its 40th year, DPVC is a registered charity and provides care, transportation and assistance to the disadvantaged in the village.

Members were joined at the workshop by Alun Cairns MP to show support for the excellent work of the volunteers. Led by Alan Higgins and Mike Robinson, chairman of the trustees, more than 40 residents attended the workshop.

Mr Cairns reported: "I enjoyed attending the morning workshop with the DPVC trustees and volunteers immensely.

"I thought it was a really positive workshop that demonstrated to me how willing and able the members and volunteers of DPVC are to adapting to the changing needs of the residents of Dinas Powys."

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Airport looks on the bright side as bmibaby flies away!

by PHILIP IRWIN

CARDIFF Airport was looking on the bright side last week, when news came that the low-cost airline bmibaby was pulling out.

The airline currently flies to 10 European destinations from Cardiff, and this will cease at the end of the summer.

However, in a statement the airport pointed out that bmibaby had seen its passenger numbers in Cardiff fall, from 34 per cent of total passengers in 2006/07, to less than 14 per cent in 2011.

A spokeswoman said: "Cardiff Airport is disappointed, albeit unsurprised, at bmibaby's decision to withdraw from Wales altogether.

"The airline has also announced it is withdrawing from Manchester Airport.

"Since 2002, both Cardiff Airport and the Welsh Assembly Government have provided significant support for bmibaby to operate in Wales as the nation's low cost carrier – only to see this announcement.

"It is regrettable that bmibaby has cited the economic climate as its reasons for withdrawing both in Manchester and Cardiff, as both regions have demonstrated strong economic prospects.

"Cardiff Airport looks forward to working with other airlines and other partners in order to facilitate increased opportunities going forward.

"Last month saw the start of the Helvetic Airways four-weekly service to Zurich, achieved through a joint partnership approach."

The managing director of Cardiff Airport, Patrick Duffy, was reported as saying that the departure of bmibaby "cleared the decks" for existing airlines to expand, or for a new one to operate from Cardiff.

The Labour candidate for the Vale in the Assembly elections, Jane Hutt, said: "It is very sad that bmibaby is leaving Cardiff Airport. Although they had run-down their presence and scheduled flights at Cardiff over the past couple of years they will be a loss – both in terms of services for customers in south Wales and in revenue for the airport.

"It is essential that one or more new operators are secured and I'm certain that the new Assembly Government will be working closely with Abertis – the airport's owners – to enhance the number of routes to and from Cardiff."

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Angela Jones-Evans, said that her party had made a manifesto pledge to seek to establish a direct air link between Wales and North America.

She said: "As US companies remain the biggest group of inward investors in the south Wales economy, there could well be a case made for such a route.

"Given the importance of an international airport to the Vale economy, the attraction and retention of foreign direct investors, as well as the development of tourism, I would make it a priority to work with Cardiff Airport as well as organisations such as Cardiff & Co and the airlines to secure such air routes at the earliest possible opportunity."

The Plaid Cymru candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, said: "The biggest concern for us locally must be the jobs of people working at Cardiff Airport. I hope the management there are pulling out all the stops to find replacement flights and routes that will offer airport users value for money and a range of flights."

Mayor's masked charity ball proves a winner...

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne, and his wife Ruby, recently held a masked charity ball at Dyffryn Gardens.

The 'masked guests' included John Major, Alan Sugar, Cheryl Cole, David Beckham, Madonna and even a Meerkat! Dancing was to music from the Bridgend Big Band.

Coun Osborne said: "I would like to thank all the individuals, companies and councillors who supported this event. It was a wonderful evening and raised just over £2,200 for the Mayor's charities".

He also thanked the local companies who had made donations and had sponsored the event.

In the photograph, above, with the Vale Mayor and Mayoress are Mr Chris Hopkins and his guests from Ted Hopkins Limited.

EASTER IN PENARTH

SPECIAL Easter services are taking place in the parish of Penarth All Saints.

On Good Friday (April 22) there is a children's service at 11am, followed by hot cross buns in the hall. From 12 noon to 3pm, there will be Good Friday devotions.

On Easter Saturday, the Easter Vigil service begins by candlelight at 7pm.

On Easter Sunday in All Saints there will be Holy Eucharist at 8am, an All Age Eucharist service for all the family at 10 am, and Evensong at 6pm.

At St Peter's Old Cogan (off Sully Road) there will be Holy Eucharist at 3.30pm.

TABERNACLE SERVICES

THE Tabernacle Presbyterian Church at Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major, will open for prayer and meditation, led by the Minister, Rev Duncan Ballantyne, on Good Friday, from 12 noon until 3pm.

Holy Communion is on Easter morning at 9am, led by Rev Ballantyne, followed by breakfast.

Easter Sunday worship at 11am will be led by Mr Michael Ford of Barry, followed by refreshments.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg celebrates a wide range of achievements by pupils

Science pupils enjoyed a theatrical performance in 'science week' and also participated in workshops at the National Museum and Techniquest.

Pupils have been raising money for the Mount Carmel School in India.

India appeal

The Welsh class year-9 set 1 has been busy collecting money for Mount Carmel School in New Delhi, India.

Bro Morgannwg has connections with schools in New Delhi through the 'UKIERI' project.

Megan Thomason from the class and her mother are going out to India during the Easter holidays and wanted to give them a small donation on behalf of the school. The class has raised £380.

On to Swansea!

A large contingent of talented pupils will be travelling down the M4 in May to compete in the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Swansea.

They triumphed in a highly successful county eisteddfod in March, with the junior choir, junior girls choir, junior llefaru group, junior and senior dramatic presentation groups, senior ymgom, Georgina Griggs – musical solo, Megan Morris – harp solo and the junior folk dancing team all winning in competitions against Glantaf and Plasmawr schools.

Congratulations to all pupils involved and to the staff who have dedicated hours to the practising.

'Spelling Bee'

Pupils from year 7 have been participating in a project organised by 'Routes into Languages' entitled Spelling Bee.

The aim of the competition is to improve spelling and vocabulary in French.

All pupils have been competing keenly in their classes and a grand final was held in March to ascertain which pupils would represent the school in the South Wales final.

Lois Aled, Nia Fenn, Nia Brown and Terry James were worthy winners. Many of the finalists are pictured with Mr Paul Mason from the Modern Foreign Language Department.

Cory Allen.

Dafydd George.

Sports reading club

The school has established a new reading club which meets on a weekly basis with Mr Paul Mason our modern foreign language teacher.

The year 8 boys are avidly reading sports magazines which range from Rugby World, Match, Kick to Dr Who, Beano and Nintendo.

This is one of the many schemes at Ysgol y Fro to promote reading amongst our pupils. We would like to thank Mr Paul Mason for organising this special reading club.

BBC news report

Fortunate pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 have thoroughly enjoyed the experience recently of creating news bulletins for the BBC as part of the BBC News Report Project.

They were able to participate in a question and answer session with Huw Edwards and Sian Lloyd, and they also planned and filmed their own bulletins which were shown on the school and BBC's website on March 24.

Highlights included Cory Allen's first cap for Wales Under 18's at St Helen.

Budding reporters – watch this space.

Academic success

Congratulations to two year 13 pupils Catrin Williams and Kristie Higgins who have been awarded entrance scholarships to the University of Wales Aberystwyth.

Kristie will study history, whereas Catrin has chosen to study Welsh and German.

International honours

Following hot on the heels of Cory Allen who won his first representative honors during the season when he played for the Wales under-18 rugby team against France, fellow year-13 pupil Steffan Jones has been chosen to represent Wales schoolboys under-18 team against Northern Ireland.

Everyone was delighted to be able to follow his exploits on Sky Sports!

Year-9 pupil Dafydd George completes the trio by winning his international vest in a cross country meeting between Welsh, Irish and Scottish Schools recently.

Dafydd came a creditable 22nd place in this race representing Wales under 15s.

Science department

It has been an extremely busy time in the science department.

Year-9 enjoyed a performance of Science Junkie and Year 7 & 8 saw a performance of 'Gofynnwch wrth Wallace' by Theatre Na Nog during 'National Science Week'.

Sixth formers studying biology have been further afield participating in workshops at the National Museum and Techniquest.

Youngsters who took part in the 'Routes into Languages' project.

Kristie Higgins and Catrin Williams.

Pupils helped to create news bulletins for the BBC as part of a current affairs project.

Celebrating raising money for the Mount Carmel School.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Sunshine (and brambles) on a stroll in the Forest of Dean...

THE weather couldn't have been more fitting, when eight walkers joined Terry and Val on a trip up to the Forest of Dean as bright sunshine welcomed them upon their arrival.

They began from the picnic site of Wench Ford, situated along the valley from Blakeney.

The group entered the Forest of Dean and began by climbing up through blossoming gorse bushes and every rambler's nightmare, brambles!

They stopped further on in bright sunshine for morning coffee with glorious views across the Severn Estuary before continuing along quiet lanes and through fields, then by way of a disused railway track to reach Gatcombe.

Once noted for salmon fishing and exporting timber which was shipped to Milford Haven and Plymouth, the waterfront originally had a quay, stone and timber pier and a slipway.

When the south Wales main railway line, which runs through the hamlet was built in 1851, everything except the quay on the landward side of the railway was destroyed.

Gatcombe's most famous resident was allegedly the Elizabethan mariner Sir Francis Drake (1540–1596) who sailed around the world in his ship, the *Golden Hind*.

The group stopped for lunch where they had fine views across the Severn Estuary to Sharpness, famed for the Gloucester and Sharpness canal.

Leaving Blakeney, a small, thriving village, the group took the steady climb to once more reach the Forest of Dean.

On April 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate/hard walk at Pontneddfechan and the waterfalls; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On April 26, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a 5.5-mile easy walk to the Giant's Bite from Quakers Yard; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

JOY STRANGWARD

Antiques road show with a difference!

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

DURING the March meeting Merthyr Mawr WI held its very own 'Antiques Road Show' with John Owen from Cowbridge, who talked about his collection and brought along a few items of his own.

He then commented on items brought by members and a very enjoyable evening was rounded off with coffee and bara brith to celebrate St David's Day.

At the end of March, members enjoyed a day trip to Llancaiach Hall, a very interesting historic house

In April they held a fashion show arranged by Samantha of Ewenny and were treated to a lovely show of clothes. Some of our members acted as models and I am sure many of us visited the shop the next day!

President Margaret Batten reminded members of the half yearly council meeting on May 4, in Porthcawl and the annual walk on May 25.

The next meeting will be on May 4, at Ewenny Community Hall and it will be the resolutions meeting. Members were reminded to read the magazine beforehand so they can have a good discussion.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 21, Holy Eucharist and stripping of the altars, at 7 pm, St Cadoc's Church Llancarfan, followed by the Vigil of the Passion, from 8pm *until midnight.*

GOOD FRIDAY, April 22, there will be a special children's service at Saint Cadoc's at 9.30am; other services, Llantrithyd 11.30am; Penmark 1pm; Llancarfan 2.30pm.

***HOLY SATURDAY,* (EASTER EVE) April 23 at Saint Cadoc's Llancarfan starting at 8pm.**

At this service the new Paschal Candle is lit and we renew our Baptismal vows, this service in effect marks the end of Lent and is the first service of Easter.

***SUNDAY, APRIL 24 - EASTER DAY* - 5.30am ('dawn' service) St Mary's Church, Penmark, followed by Hot Cross Buns and coffee/tea.**

11am Holy Eucharist Service at St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan.

VALE MUSIC

THIS charitable organisation encourages excellence and enjoyment in the performance of vocal and instrumental music among young people.

Patrons are Rebecca Evans and Owain Arwel Hughes and there is a competition in November each year, while they also put on concerts during the year to raise funds.

On May 9, there is a 'musical evening' with performances by Rebecca Evans, WNO musicians and 'Music in the Vale' young finalists, at Coedarhydyglyn, Saint Nicholas by kind permission of Rhodri and Annabelle Traherne. There will be Champagne and canapés and the evening will run from 7pm-9pm. For tickets/information, call Sheelagh Lewis 01446 781002.

Patsie and I would like to wish all our readers a very happy Easter.

Coffee morning

THERE will be an Easter coffee morning in Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, April 23 from 10am – 12 noon. Price is £3, including tea/coffee/cake/free top up. There will be an Easter egg raffle, cake stall and bric-a-brac stall.

Friends' expeditions for cancer charity

Claire and Val (centre) with Sue flower (chairperson) and Brenda Dwek (president).

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club was entertained recently by Claire Davies and her friend Val, who talked about their adventurous expeditions – such as climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, walking the Great Wall of China, Arctic survival and the London to Paris cycle race in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

They have raised thousands of pounds for this charity over the last 10 years.

The talk, which members thoroughly enjoyed, was followed by afternoon tea and a raffle and £185 was raised for Macmillan.

Members learn how to 'Strip the Willow'

AS this was the last meeting of Boverton WI before Easter, the Llantonian Hall looked very decorative with 50 Easter Eggs in outfits knitted by Mary Davies!

Together with a table of Easter decorations for the competition, it set the scene for a very interesting evening. After the usual business, the speaker for the evening gave a talk on growing and weaving with willow.

It was interesting to hear how the advent of the plastic carrier bag caused the decline in container-making as an ancient craft. It is now making a comeback.

There are many varieties of willow, some like the Biomas Willow, which grow up to 30 feet in a year, while others are slow growing and come in various colours.

It is a very environmentally friendly crop as about 250 species of bugs and birds visit willow and it takes in quantities of carbon dioxide and cleans contaminated soil.

After a brief history of basket making, we were each given two long pieces of willow to make a bird feeder. It kept us all busy until we had tea and hot cross buns.

Liz Gabb won the prize for the Easter decoration and the raffle prizes were won by Pam Lennox, Liz Gabb, Molly Lane and Joyce Bruton.

We next meet for afternoon tea to celebrate the royal wedding and our May 12 meeting is Resolutions, followed by a talk and demonstration by John Shapland from the Boverton Garden Centre. New members always welcome. ***AC***

Countdown search for the unsung heroes

Gordon Black won an award last year.

ENTRIES are being sought for the 2011 Wales Care Awards, which honour the skill and devotion of people who look after vulnerable children and adults.

The awards were introduced nine years ago by Care Forum Wales to inspire excellence in the care sector .

Among those honoured at the 2010 Awards ceremony, was former carpenter Gordon Black, from Barry, who won the coveted title of exceptional newcomer.

"When I make a cup of tea and see a smile on a face that's good enough for me. There's nothing better than that," he commented.

This year's glittering event will again take place at City Hall in Cardiff, in October.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 29, the day of the Royal wedding. The organisers say they would be delighted if service users nominated carers if they thought their efforts should be recognised.

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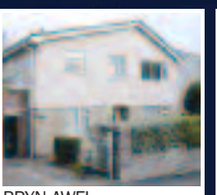
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Conservatory
- Good sized gardens to front & rear
- Stunning views over countryside
- Viewing highly recommended

£120,000

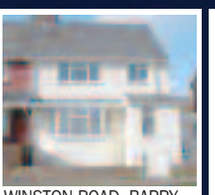
BERKROLLES AVENUE, ST ATHAN
- 3 bedroom semi detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Good size grounds
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£102,950



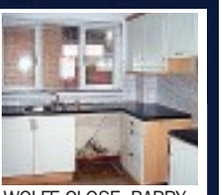
BRYN AWEL, BUTTRILLS ROAD
- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 3 reception rooms
- Garage, driveway & spacious well mainained gardens
- Viewing highly recommended

£244,950



WINSTON ROAD, BARRY
- 3 Bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Recently refurbished throughout
- Front & rear gardens
- Viewings recommended

£124,950



WOLFE CLOSE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom property in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Driveway to front
- Viewings highly recommended
- Offered freehold with vacant possession

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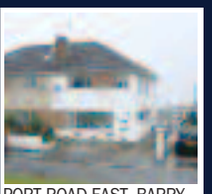
BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY
- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

£179,950

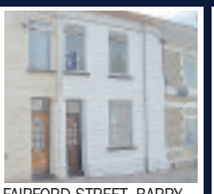
BARRY ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom end terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Exceptionally large accommodation
- Offered with vacant possession and no chain

£109,950



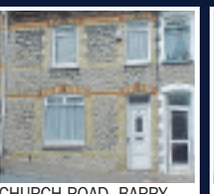
PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached in sought after location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Additional loft room
- Detached garage, workshop/utility room & driveway
- Backing directly onto countryside with panoramic rural views
- Viewing highly recommended

£214,950



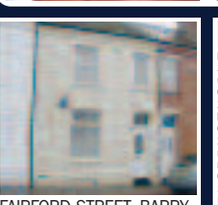
FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£90,000



CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain
- Priced for a quick sale

£90,000



FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY
- 2 Bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Viewings highly recommended
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£79,950

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Potholes: 'Time for drivers to complain'

RECENTLY, my car would not move from its parked position and so I had to call out the AA Home Start.

A nice man diagnosed the problem straight-away – both front suspension springs were broken and it seems this is now a common occurrence.

Chris Pope's garage in Llantwit Major told me he is regularly getting three or four cars a week to fit new springs, all due to pothole damage.

Modern cars are built for smooth roads and not for off-the-road pot holing, he said.

There is a very dangerous ongoing problem of potholes that festoon Vale roads.

The damage to the springs also ruined the tyres and broke the brake pipes.

Had I been travelling at the time, a fatal accident could easily have been the end result.

The council say they are lacking funds and are trying to get money from the Government for the repairs – but they are playing with people's lives on our already dangerous roads.

Why waste money sending men out with yellow markers to select a few holes and leave others right next to them?

Those left will get worse, and yet again a man will have to come out with his yellow marker – and so on, *ad infinitum!*

I shall send my £200 bill to the council, although I know they will not take any blame because I cannot identify the exact pothole(s) and the number of similar claims means there are too many already.

Please do complain and try to claim if you are in this unfortunate situation.

It just might make them sit up and take notice.

WE Henderson,
St Athan

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'WE ARE LOSING WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO OUR TOWN'

I WOULD like to thank Mrs G Neil of Clive Road, Barry Island, for her kind comments regarding my film 'Barry and The Island'.

I certainly hope that this DVD is also bringing back memories for many others.

I, myself, do not remember much of Butlins or the Knap Lido, but I did attend the cinema quite frequently.

For those who have watched the film, you will note that there is a section about the Theatre Royal which is now going to be demolished and made into a care home.

It is to be built in a very foolish place and it will take away any possibility of ever having a cinema there again. History has repeated itself.

Landmark building?... do me a favour!

I read that this care home will help with the regeneration process:

I welcome anybody who can tell me how a care home can possibly regenerate Barry in any way.

Last Friday, a local resident, who had seen my film, came up to me and remarked, '*there isn't anything to do in Barry anymore*.'

I agreed.

So what's left? Keep watching the leisure centre because that's probably next to go.

And since the council have no imagination whatsoever, we're likely to see more flats and houses.

I remember when I first set eyes on the the Dock/ Waterfront plans and saw lots and lots and lots of houses....and a supermarket!

Apparently, there is a tourism department in Barry; *this is news*... when are they going to start?

So, while I thank those who are watching my film and thank those who do care for this place, I also condemn those who are willfully ripping out the heart of this town.

Michael James Moore
Film maker, Barry Island

Gritting factors to be considered

WE write in response to Clare Curtis' letter in The GEM on April 14.

The report presented to scrutiny committee (economy and environment) on April 5 dealt with, amongst other issues, the gritting of roads in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It set out the criteria used when deciding whether any additional roads should be added to the gritting schedule.

Currently, 43 per cent of the highway network is treated. Whilst no guidance has been given by the Wales Audit Office, the English Audit Office recommends that highway authorities should routinely treat between 25 per cent and 38 per cent of roads.

It is not, however, possible to treat all roads. Estate and other minor roads without an appreciable gradient are generally not treated.

It is also not possible to treat all bus routes.

During the cold spell, and in particular between December 17-28, 2010, we spoke to officers about the provision of grit bins and also made requests for certain roads in Dyfan ward to be treated.

The issue, however, has to be looked at strategically, and is dependent on available workforce, equipment and the availability of salt.

On April 5, committee was informed that the winter maintenance budget had been overspent by £300,000.

Clearly, the financial position also has to be considered.

No decision has yet been taken as to whether or not there will be any changes to the schedule for 2011/12. The decision will be made by officers in consultation with the cabinet member for visible and building services.

Clare Curtis should be aware of this as her husband, Coun Rob Curtis, was, of course, the cabinet member for visible and building services between 2006 and 2008.

We will continue to actively press for Meggitt Road and Winston Road to be included in the schedule for 2011/12 and will keep residents informed as to progress.

Coun Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright,
Dyfan ward, Barry,

Euphoria of last crossing patrol!

MY last day on road crossing patrol at Romilly passed by on a sea of euphoria, from judging the 'little-uns' Easter bonnets to being presented with an ornamental Japanese cherry tree and gardening vouchers from the children and staff.

Throughout the day, people showed their appreciation with kind words, cards and gifts, too many to mention, and the centre piece of the day was the banner, which is now adorning my wall at home.

I send my heartfelt thanks to those parents who made a cash contribution to my leaving gift and instead of buying me something I didn't want, I now have a whacking big token to spend on something I do want – and believe me, I am pondering on that one!

A huge piece of my heart goes to those wonderful, crazy mums who formed a human chain across the road, so I could do - 'The Walk' - my last journey across my piece of road in Park Crescent, which has been my second home for the last nine years or so; and even more thanks for the patience of the motorists.

As I have said before, it has been my privilege and pleasure to keep people safe and share in the lives of all those people who have crossed with me.

I wouldn't change one single happy moment.

So Romilly, it will not be the same, because, traffic lights don't smile at you or say good morning, or ask how you are.

They don't sing happy birthday, or tell you the weather forecast – but just remember to wait for the green man and you will stay safe and if you don't, I swear I will come back to haunt you!

Thanks Romilly, for the gifts, the love, the hugs, for being you and for making my last day, and all the days that went before, so special. I'll see you soon.

Joy Strangward
Barry

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, April 5: *First, Mick Green and Denis Mottram, 62.71 per cent; second, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 56.46; third, Anne Johns and Eileen Hughes, 55.26; Mick and Denis also won on handicap.*

Tuesday, April 12: *First, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas, 61 per cent; second, Denis Mottram and Noelle Bond, 54%; third, Mick Green and Mike Close, 52; Huw and Celia also won on handicap.*

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; for more information call 01446 733425. ***MB***

Explosive end for St Athan water tower:
– a case of now you see it, now you don't!

A crowd gathered at RAF St Athan on Sunday, April 17 to witness an explosive event – the demolition of a giant water tower.

The tower took just a couple of seconds to collapse to the ground, followed by a large cloud of smoke.

The explosive experts used 10kg of explosives which were placed strategically in 250 holes around the tower. It led to a perfect execution with no damage to nearby buildings – two were just 10 metres away from the tower.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' sequential record of the event, it was a case of 'now you see it, now you don't'!

Pictures by
GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.
Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk (telephone 01446 773225). Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Just three seconds after the explosion... and smoke rises from the ruins.

Fourth outing of this horror franchise is certainly nothing to Scream about!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHAT'S your favourite scary movie" – was spoken at the start of 1996's *Scream*, it marked a watershed in the horror genre.

Taking a gentle poke at the conventions of the horror film, while similarly creating a whole new set of scares, the franchise delivered two sequels, the second living up to the first, while the third followed the traditional law of diminishing returns.

So it is all the more surprising that 11 years later, the fourth *Scream* movie hits cinemas.

Reuniting the original's director, Wes Craven, and writer, Kevin Williamson, 10 years have passed since the murders, and Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell), returns to the town of Woodsboro to promote her new book.

However, Sidney's return soon sees a spate of murders that draw in cast members old and new (including Courtney Cox, David Arquette, Emma Roberts and Hayden Panettiere)...

As knowing as the original *Scream* was, its impact has diluted in the past decade with the horror genre falling into a grisly phase with the likes of *Hostel* and the *Saw* films.

So its reappearance was seemingly a statement of intent from Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson that no matter how much gore and shock value a film may have, it can't beat the slasher template for jumps and scares.

It is a statement that rings hollows based on the evidence here, as *Scream 4* is an all-too perfunctory retread of past glories, and though it seems in part it is the intention to parody itself, the end result just doesn't cut it (excuse the pun).

That both Craven and Williamson were involved is a testament to the fact that they felt this was ground worth revisiting, and while Williamson's script bristles with digs at the way horror films have gone over the past decade, and knowing winks at the way genre rules have changed as a result, it all too often feels like an update of the original, rather than a film in its own right.

Craven is well at home with post-modernism, having also helmed the return of Freddie Krueger from sequel-hell in *New Nightmare*, a film that similarly took digs at the genre that fed it. While he obviously directs with a relish for bloodletting, there are very few real jumps and scares, the murders feeling too built-up and lacking any punch.

The cast, like any slasher film, are there more for looks than acting performances, but the returning triumvirate of Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox and David Arquette all fit back into their roles with aplomb, albeit with 10 years of baggage.

Meanwhile, the likes of Emma Roberts, Hayden Panettiere, Eric Knudsen and Rory Culkin all make for solid bait for the ghost-face killer, whose menace can't disguise his WWE-style ability to absorb pain!.

However, the decent performances can't salvage a film that, while clever in deconstructing the world of the horror movie, doesn't make for a good scary movie.

Perhaps Kevin Williamson intended the film to be like this, but too much winking and not enough imaginative slashing makes for a dull horror film, something exacerbated by Wes Craven's inability to bring anything fresh to the table.

While not disgracing the franchise (that honour going to *Scream 3*), it is a rather limp return and *Scream 4* fails to leave you wanting more.

VERDICT – A poor outing all round, *Scream 4* might make some salient points about the status of the horror genre in today's Hollywood, but fails to scare up much in the way of jumps.

Kevin Williamson's script seems more concerned with point scoring, and Wes Craven's direction all too often cruises along, leaving the film to be one you wouldn't Scream about. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Scream*, *Halloween*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer.*

COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

Shoppers have spring in their step as the sun shines on Cowbridge!

by JAYNE ISAAC

SPRING is definitely in the air in Cowbridge – and also in the step of the shoppers, who have been flocking to the town in the lovely sunshine.

The Easter weekend and next week's royal wedding have both been influencing what people are buying and many shops have an Easter theme, with lots of bunnies and chicks on display.

And the fashion and shoe shops are enjoying a bit of a boost, as people freshen up their wardrobes with this season's new styles and colours.

Awen Evans of High Society and Havana, who is also with the town's chamber of trade, said that the royal wedding was definitely having an impact.

"A number of guests going to the wedding have been in town looking for their outfits," she said. "And where better to come? We have some lovely shops selling fabulous clothes so people know that they have a good choice."

Awen pointed out that there were strict rules of etiquette for royal weddings and those who are attending have to be sure that their outfits have sleeves and respectable hemlines, with the ensemble topped off by a fabulous hat.

"What's striking this year is that strong colours are popular," she reported. "We are seeing lots of cerise, purple, green and teal as well as neutrals like camel, silver and platinum, which is a darker tone.

"The usual pastels like pink, pale blue and lemon are not much in evidence this year."

As for what the bride will wear, Awen and her colleagues have been asked by BBC Wales to speculate about what THAT dress could look like.

"They have recorded a piece which will be broadcast on the morning of the wedding and after the ceremony, they will be back to ask us what we thought of the dress," said Awen.

"I think that Kate will go for a simple, classical dress. She is very elegant and that is how she dresses.

"I think we could see a vintage look, with old lace being used as part of the dress."

Awen commented that vintage is a very popular trend at the moment not just for wedding dresses, but in general.

"We expect this dress to have a huge impact on the design of wedding dresses from now on. We know that many brides will be wanting to have the look."

...and vintage is something that Cowbridge caters for in spades! The Happy Days vintage and handmade market at the back of the Duke of Wellington has a number of stalls providing clothing, accessories, china, furniture, Welsh blankets, embroidered tablecloths, ornaments – you name it.

The market brings in people from all over the UK who enjoy its eclectic mix of items and also its homely atmosphere – promoted by the tea room serving home made cakes on vintage china like all our grannies used to have.

The market is the brainchild of Sarah Legg and Nicole Burnett, who own many of the stalls, but also rent out space to others.

Sarah stated that vintage was huge at the moment: "We had someone from Scotland in here the other day who had heard about us and there was also somebody from London. This boosts trade for everyone in Cowbridge, because once people have made the trip, they will have a good look around."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

Anthony Taylor of Gaskell and Walker solicitors.

Rachel Best and Amy Theophilus - Fun Foundations Nursery

Sam Edwards of The Shop/Gifts

Craig Lamont, manager of Shoecare

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

The friendly team at Vale 4x4 are situated in North Road.

The Fich & Ramous team - Lance, Gethin, John, Charlotte, Lauren, Ffion and Claire.

Helen Hopkins of Cowbridge Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Sports injury clinic

Jean Tait of La Mercerie

Amy Lunnon of Eye Candy Boutique

Alison and Huw of Pebble, with sons Sol and Oz

Few towns can offer such pleasant surroundings and individual choice

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Sarah felt that the venture was going really well and a big attraction is the recycled clothes on the Sliced Bread stall, which Sophie Creed of Treoes restyles.

Sophie creates one-off items using various materials imaginatively to create totally unique pieces.

"It's a new twist on vintage," explained Sophie. "I rework clothes by adding in something here and something there. No two garments will ever be the same."

Sophie goes to car boot sales and charity shops to find the basic garments and also the materials she needs – which could range from old table cloths and curtains to sheets.

The centre is also the base for a successful knitting club each Monday afternoon, where knitters – and non knitters – are welcome to enjoy a cup of tea and a natter.

This is run by Sue Mayo, who has a wool stall in the market, where she sells hand dyed yarns and her own ceramic buttons, which she designs herself and has specially made.

Sue loves knitting and is always willing to give help and advice to people just learning the skill.

"I started knitting when I was a little girl because we had an old lady living nearby who used to knit for a living," she explained. "She started me off and used to give me bits of wool and other materials. I have knitted ever since."

She said that knitting was now back in a big way, with people getting together to knit all over the country.

The centre also offers plants, hanging baskets and planters and this is the domain of Cath Jones, who has given up her teaching job to turn her hobby into her livelihood.

She and her husband use their garden and an allotment to grow plants and Cath will be selling vegetable plants in pots shortly, as so many people find it difficult to grow from seed.

The plants make an attractive entrance into the centre and also give possible customers a chance to see what's on offer.

In fact, many of the shops have plants on sale at the moment and they make the town very attractive and colourful.

Recycling clothes and other items is also a big theme for the charity shops in the town. They are urging people to have a clear-out of their wardrobes and cupboards as part of a spring clean.

Theresa Seldon of the Red Cross shop in Penny Lane, reported that people were coming in looking for a new outfit for Easter, and new stock was arriving all the time.

"People need to keep looking as we have new stuff every day. We have a mix of new customers and our regulars."

The shop does get vintage clothes, but it does not have a separate section for this and puts everything onto the rails, so customers have to have a good look through.

"I know that this is very popular but we are too small to operate a separate section," she said.

Lois Boutique, owned by Sue Marshall, has moved into the former Sanders shoe shop, which gives it lots more room. The old boutique is now a shoe shop – which helps retain choice for shoe shoppers in town.

Ceri Staziker of St Nicholas, was in there looking for a pair of black sandals and was accompanied by her six-year-old daughter Gwennan and her mother Janice Webber, who lives in Cwmavon but is moving to the area shortly.

"I love shopping in Cowbridge," she remarked. "It's got a wonderful atmosphere and it's very friendly. I am fed up with towns which are nothing but pound shops and multiples. Here, the shops are nearly all locally owned."

Dawn Payne is one of the women who work in the shoe shop and she said that it was a big hit with customers, increasing the choice for people.

Barbara Davies works in the boutique and said that the new premises gave them a lot more room, meaning they could carry more stock and offer greater choice to customers.

"The customers have been very supportive of the move," she said. "We also have new people coming in all the time," she said and added that many people had already bought new fashions for the spring, though new stock is arriving all the time so there is still plenty of choice.

Sport now pays a big part in the life of the country – whatever the season. Football and rugby naturally have huge followings, while cricket and tennis are also very popular once summer arrives.

...And Cowbridge has a shop that caters for almost all sporting tastes: Jensen Sports Shop in Eastgate has been open seven years and is owned by Graham and Debbie Cartwright.

They carry a wide range of sports gear for all ages from young children through to adult.

Some of the brands stocked include Under Armour, Canterbury, Uglies, Speedo and Adidas.

The shop also caters for ballet and gymnastics and provides uniforms for pupils attending local schools.

The couple are able to offer considerable product knowledge to customers.

Graham was a professional footballer in his younger days, playing in the A team at Manchester United when he was 14, and then playing in the Northern premier league.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SPRING/EASTER Seasonal update

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ABOVE: Lucy Campbell and Josh Edwards, Funky Fish pedispa

LEFT: Jeff and Nikki Jones of Liquorice Laces.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

He is still a keen follower of all sports and having the shop keeps him up to speed with new developments in things such as boots and shoes, and also the latest refinements in sports kit.

Cowbridge has an impressive range of shops – including a well stocked book shop, a fantastic traditional ironmonger's in the form of Arthur John; lots of shops selling items for the home; good quality food shops including a proper butcher, delicatessen and greengrocer; shoe and handbag shops, jewellery and antique shops as well as the fashion shops for which it is now renowned.

In all, it is a very potent and alluring combination which many people find irresistible...and when the shopping ends, there are plenty of places offering refreshments and meals where the weary shopper can recharge their batteries before entering the fray again!

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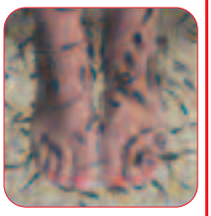

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Eager Beavers (and Cubs) see VC10 at first hand

The 1st St Athan Beaver and Cub Scouts on a recent visit to RAF St Athan

RECENTLY 1st St Athan Beaver and Cub Scouts visited the VC10 aircraft maintenance facility at the defence support group, RAF St Athan.

The VC10 is the RAF's primary in-flight refuelling aircraft, and can refuel up to three fighter aircraft at the same time, or one large aircraft (another VC10) at any one time.

There are three marks of VC10 currently in service: The Mk1 can be used for passenger and refuelling, carrying up to 138 passengers and fuel.

The Mk3 is a refuelling aircraft only, carrying up to 70 tons of fuel. The Mk4 can carry up to 30 passengers and fuel.

The VC10 still holds the record for the fastest sub-sonic Atlantic crossing.

"We were fortunate to see VC10 Mk4 Reg No ZD241, which was undergoing a minor service.

"This aircraft was built and entered service in 1968 for British Airways Reg No G-ASGM. It was sold to the RAF and converted to a tanker in 1985," said Joanne Gower, the Beaver Scout Leader.

"The Beavers and Cubs thoroughly enjoyed this visit and have now completed their air activities badges. We would like to thank Mr Bob McNicol and Mr Gerry Turnbull for arranging and allowing the Beaver and Cub Scouts to visit this interesting facility."

Anyone wishing to find out more about Beaver or Cubs Scouts in St Athan should telephone 01446 754208.

Joanne Gower, Beaver Scout Leader, 1st St Athan Scout Group

PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, April 26, 7pm.
CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, Cadoc, Crescent, Barry, May 4, 7pm.
ST NICHOLAS & BONVILSTON community council meeting, May 3, Trehill Hall, St. Nicholas, 7.30pm.
TWYN-YR-ODYN, coffee and chat meeting, Horse & Jockey public house, May 4, at 11am.
ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, in the back room of the Windsor Public House, April 21, 7pm.
LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, May 9, 7pm.
STANWELL PACT, Elfed Avenue United Church, May 10, 7pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, Penarth Leisure Centre, May 12, 7pm.

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Llantwit service

Ebenezer URC, Llantwit Major will be holding its Easter Day service at 3pm, when the preacher will be the minister, Rev Irfon James. The service will be followed by light refreshments, including Easter eggs. All are welcome.

Gardening club

THE annual general meeting and seedling evening of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, April 28 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall. Bring your own seed tray and get your compost free.

Royal date

LLANMAES social committee is hosting a royal wedding breakfast at Llanmaes Village Hall on Friday, April 29.

Doors open at 10am for a Bucks Fizz Reception at 10.30 am, followed by the big screen event at 11am. *Contact Debbie on 01446 792709 for more details.*

Flower club

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club is meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 4 in the Llanblethian church hall, when Katherine Lee will give a demonstration entitled 'Recycle'.

Charity golf

A CHARITY golf day in aid of the new Llandough Hospital breast care unit will be held at Cottrell Park on Monday, June 6.

A stableford event (team of four) will be followed by hog roast and presentation – £160 per team with proceeds to the new breast cancer care unit.

The new breast centre at the hospital site opened in October 2010. This is the first time that patients with breast problems can be assessed in a state-of-the-art one-stop clinic under one roof.

Sponsors are being sought to raise money for the breast centre. The money raised will be used to build and equip the teaching and training centre, and buy state-of-the-art equipment.

For full details, contact the club secretary – andy.case62@yahoo.co.uk

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Walking festival scheduled for May

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Visit the website www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk *for more details.*

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See page 29 for more exciting bank holiday options in the area

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William & Kate
Royal Wedding guide

8-Page GEM Special

Friday 29th April, 2011

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A day to

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The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Elizabeth Middleton is going to be the biggest state occasion so far this century.

So where will you be on April 29?

A Bank Holiday has been declared, thousands of people will be flocking to London from across the country and thousands are expected to fly in from all over the world.

Parties are being planned in streets, clubs and halls all over the nation, as well as the Commonwealth, and about one billion people will be watching the wedding unfold on the TV and internet.

The happy couple themselves are said to be "on cloud nine" as they make final preparations for the big day.

The Goring Hotel where Bride Kate will spend her wedding eve

THE OCCASION

William and Kate have been "very much in charge of the arrangements", according to the prince's private secretary Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton – choosing a spring date and wanting the public to get behind the occasion.

Paul Hawtin ♥ Martina Toby

"Never forget how you first felt when you fell in love."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND STILL GOING STRONG •

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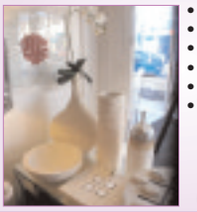

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"Be there for each other."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2010 AND ARE DUE TO MARRY LATER THIS YEAR •

remember...

They chose Westminster Abbey as the venue for its beauty but also due to the associations it has for William – it was the venue for the funeral of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Kate, 29, was said to have fallen in love with it on a private visit after their engagement in November last year.

She will spend her last night as a commoner at The Goring Hotel, in central London, with her family, including her brother James and sister and maid of honour, Philippa, known as Pippa.

With the sapphire and diamond engagement ring worn by Diana on her left hand, she will make her journey to the wedding in the Queen's Rolls-Royce Phantom VI limousine.

After leaving the hotel at around 10.30am, the princess-to-be will travel along The Mall, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

Surrounded by well-wishers and the lenses of the world's media, all eyes will be on her dress.

THE DRESS

It is thought palace officials took advice from Vogue editor Alexandra Shulman as Kate sought a designer for the all-important gown.

Shulman is believed to have recommended Sarah Burton, creative director for Alexander McQueen, who took over the British fashion label following McQueen's death last year.

But there has been speculation Diana-favourite Bruce Oldfield has the job, after Kate's sister and mother, Carole, visited his shop in February.

The final design will not be announced until the day, but the slim brunette is likely to wear a full length white, ivory or cream dress with sleeves, a train and a veil.

Kate will change at least once during the day and she is rumoured to have commissioned a hat from famous milliner Philip Treacy.

THE CEREMONY

Waiting nervously at the altar of the Abbey, with his brother Prince Harry by his side as best man, Prince William's attire is easier to predict and will doubtless attract far less attention.

The flight lieutenant, 28, is expected to follow royal tradition by marrying in military dress – his RAF uniform.

His bride will make her way down the aisle on the arm of her father, with her sister and a group of bridesmaids and page boys, at 11am.

Around 2,000 guests, from across the world, will look on as the pair are married by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. The Dean of Westminster will conduct the service and the Bishop of London will give the address.

William and Kate have chosen the music and hymns, and the prince will place a ring made of 18 carat Welsh gold on his bride's finger. Gold from the Clogau St David's mine in north Wales has been traditional for royal rings since the Queen Mother chose it in 1923.

THE PROCESSION

Now husband and wife, the pair will emerge to waiting cameras before proceeding towards Buckingham Palace in an open top State Landau carriage.

The wedding party, including William's father, the Prince of Wales, and the Queen and Prince Philip, will appear on the balcony, where the pair will kiss for all the world to see.

THE RECEPTION

Once they bid goodbye to the crowds and make their way inside Buckingham Palace, the couple and their extended families pose for official photographs – likely to be taken by Hugo Burnand.

The festivities will continue with 600 guests at a lunchtime reception.

In the evening, 300 closer friends and family stay for a dinner given by Prince Charles, during which Prince Harry should make a speech as best man.

THE HAPPY EVER AFTER?

As the newly-weds begin their honeymoon, the scale of this occasion will begin to sink in. Kate will wake as a member of the Royal Family and a worldwide celebrity and William as a married man who can fulfil his duties with a companion by his side. Whatever their marriage holds, their wedding will create memories for us all.

> "Kate just fell in love with the Abbey on a visit last year"

William and Harry: Soldiers

WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE WATCHING?

They may have had their request for 3D cameras rejected by the palace, but the Royal Wedding will still be covered in high definition by all the major broadcasters.

The BBC's coverage will be anchored by Huw Edwards.

David Dimbleby had for many years been the main presenter for state occasions, but has been pipped by the Ten O'Clock News presenter – who chaired the Beeb's coverage of the Pope's visit in 2010.

ITV is going for a more laid-back approach with This Morning star Philip Schofield at the helm, alongside News At Ten's Julie Etchingham. ITV News presenters Mark Austin, Alastair Stewart and Mary Nightingale will also feature.

The Sky News line-up should include Dermot Monaghan and Adam Boulton.

Amanda Holden, Piers Morgan and Ben Fogle have all won roles as commentators for US networks.

Carl Underwood Debbie Underwood

"Real love is a wonderful, rare gift. Remember to always look after it."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2010 AND WERE MARRIED IN FEBRUARY •

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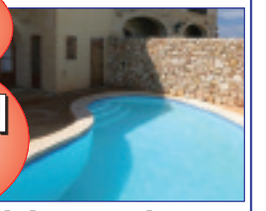

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"Keep surprising each other."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2002, MARRIED FOR FOUR YEARS •

The guests

We can expect to see members of the public sitting alongside heads of state, such as our PM, at the event.

John Hayley, the landlord of Kate's favourite pub near her Berkshire family home is one of the 1,900 lucky enough to be invited.

He'll be joined by 80 people from charities and organisations supported by the prince.

Polo and university friends will show up, as will Sir Richard Branson's children Holly and Sam.

Some 90 royals, 60 governors-general and prime ministers from Commonwealth countries and 30 members of the military will attend.

And stars including David and Victoria Beckham have confirmed.

White Lion turns Pink for cancer charity!

AS readers will know, Tracy, Mark and staff at the White Lion, Ystradowen have a growing local reputation for charity campaigns – as shown by their efforts in 2010 for 'Help for Heroes'.

This year, they have raised the bar in support of their newly-adopted Breast Cancer charity; they have refurbished the Lion and included in the exercise a full-on PINK paint makeover to the exterior walls.

"By and large, our existing customers are growing to like the new image," Tracy Bell reported. ("It is certainly attracting a lot of attention and some new restaurant business for us! But our principal aim was to draw attention to the start of our Campaign for Breast Cancer.

"The new Breast Cancer care unit for Cardiff and the Vale is being built at Llandough hospital and will receive the profits of all ticket sales from a series of forthcoming events."

The White (and Pink) Lion's campaign begins on April 29 when the pub will host its own 'royal wedding' with customers being asked to arrive in the guise of guests invited to the 'other event' in London!

There will be raffles, spot prizes, and special offers on their range of beers. The pub is looking forward to welcoming the 'likes' of the Duke of Edinburgh, Harry, Andrew – and perhaps even Her Majesty! Elvis too will be making an appearance.

Watch out for the pub's vibrant pink convertible car driving around advertising this worthwhile event. (Artwork provided by Elite Signs in Bridgend).

Anyone who wishes to make a donation or donate a raffle prize, should contact the 'Pink' Lion directly (or stop the driver of the pink car!).

Tickets to include a barbecue, live music from Off the Cuff and lots of other events, are £10 from the pub (01446 775591) with all profits used to start this year's campaign.

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'Love is in the Heir' becomes royal tipple

A Barry brewery is likely to be making a name in royal circles with a new addition to its production line – 'Love is in the Heir' – which celebrates the nuptials of Prince William and Katherine Middleton.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brewery has made a name for itself in capturing the 'zeitgeist' or 'spirit of the age', and has concocted a traditional Welsh brew to give its customers the opportunity to toast the happy couple on April 29.

Last year, when the Ryder Cup was held at the Celtic Manor, the brewery brought out a 'Tiger Would' beer, poking fun at Tiger Wood's love of the ladies. The brewery's pump clip showed a busty blond holding out a golf ball.

This time, the brewery have a pump clip which shows Prince William hanging out of a helicopter, and holding a sparkling wedding ring between his fingers.

The brewery distributes throughout the Vale, Cardiff, Newport and Swansea.

Joint owner and brewer Dave Walbeoff said: "We are always looking for new ideas, and hope people see the humour in them!"

***ABOVE:** Prince William hangs out of a helicopter, a wedding ring in his hand, on the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery's latest pump clip.*

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

This procession will be full of history and centuries of tradition

This journey is the highlight of any royal wedding and the route holds many memories. Here **Sarah O'Meara** points out landmarks...

Kate Middleton will be transported along a well-worn path to start her new life as a member of the Royal Family. After spending the night at The Goring (a favourite haunt of the late Queen Mother) she and father Michael will wait for her royal limousine.

Luckily, the pair won't have to factor in the traffic, as their 10-minute journey to Westminster Abbey will be cleared.

While the journey may be little more than a mile long, it is packed with centuries of history and tradition.

As future royal brides have done before her, Kate will be driven down the avenue of The Mall, along Horse Guards Parade, through Whitehall to arrive in Parliament Square and step out at Westminster Abbey.

For the first time since 1963, there will be no horse-drawn carriage arrival.

Prince William is set to leave St James's Palace with Prince Harry 10 minutes before his future bride, then head through Horse Guards Arch onto Whitehall – the same journey taken by the brothers as part of their mother's funeral procession.

But the real magic begins when William and Kate make the return journey as husband and wife. The couple will emerge to a truly awesome spectacle – including military bands and mounted regiments.

A procession of horse-drawn State Landau carriages will take them and the family back to Buckingham Palace.

They will pass the stooped statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, the Palace of Westminster, and the entrance to Downing Street as they travel down Whitehall.

Horse Guards Parade will be familiar to William as the venue for the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony, celebrating the Queen's birthday. Then they will begin a triumphant parade down The Mall.

Back at the palace, as his parents did in 1981, Prince William will gather Princess Catherine in his arms on the balcony for their first public kiss.

ABBEY AT YOUR SERVICE

When they tie the knot Kate and William will be part of a story dating back to 1066 – when future monarchs began using the Abbey for coronations. It was in this building that William's uncle, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, was married to Sarah Ferguson in 1986 and his aunt Princess Anne was married to Captain Mark Phillips in 1973.

The Abbey is a Royal Peculiar, which is a church belonging to the monarch.

During the Second World War, Abbey treasures and medieval tombs were protected with around 60,000 sandbags.

At the west end of the Abbey's nave lies the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried here on November 11, 1920.

ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS

The Goring: Eschewing overblown grandeur, Kate has opted to stay in the understated The Goring, a five-star hotel just outside the walls of Buckingham Palace on the night before her wedding.

The Mall: With Buckingham Palace in her rear-view mirror, Kate will travel along The Mall, passing near Clarence House, the official residence of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince William and Prince Harry and St James's Palace and park.

Whitehall: This road leading from Trafalgar Square to Parliament Square is at the heart of Government, with Downing Street leading off it.

Parliament Square: On entering the iconic square, Kate will pass by Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

Westminster Abbey: Almost 1,000 years ago, King Henry I was married to Matilda of Scotland, marking the start of a succession of royal weddings, and coronations in this gothic Abbey.

Fit for a prince

Prince William will indulge his sweet tooth on his wedding day by tucking into a chocolate biscuit cake, one of his childhood favourites.

William asked McVitie's to create this teatime treat as an alternative to the official fruit wedding cake by designer Fiona Cairns.

Good Housekeeping's Ultimate No-bake Chocolate Refrigerator Cake is the ideal version to make at home for some royal flavour at your street party.

Ingredients

1150g (5oz) each plain and milk chocolate, broken into pieces;
100g (3½oz) unsalted butter;
50g (2oz) golden syrup;
150g (5oz) sultanas;
150g (5oz) ready-to-eat prunes, chopped;
75g (3oz) pistachios;
200g (7oz) shortbread, roughly crushed.

Method

1 Line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin with two layers of cling film, leaving excess hanging over the sides.
2 Put the chocolates and butter into a large, microwave-safe bowl and heat for 30sec bursts until melted and smooth. Stir in the syrup, fruit and nuts. Next, carefully fold in the shortbread.
3 Spoon mixture into the prepared tin and freeze for 2hrs or chill in the fridge until set (about 5hrs).
4 Remove from the freezer or fridge 20min before cutting into small pieces – serves 15.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2006 AND STILL GOING STRONG •

"There was something very special about Kate... our love just sort of blossomed"

William apparently fell for her naughty sense of humour, while Kate had a crush on him at school. **Kate Whiting** reveals the love story behind the wedding...

When a beaming Kate Middleton, wearing that new iconic blue Issa dress, posed for engagement photographs in November last year, history was set in motion.

The eyes of the world will be on the couple when they make their vows and the hope will be that this fairytale wedding has a happier outcome than that of William's parents.

In fact, Kate may be wearing Diana's sapphire and diamond engagement ring, but that's where the similarities end.

While Diana was only 20 when she said "I do" to Prince Charles, Kate will be 29 and a university graduate who is happy in her own skin.

When a friend said she was lucky to be with William, Kate reportedly quipped: "He's lucky to be with me."

Though technically a commoner, Kate comes from a wealthy middle-class family and has benefited from a stable, happy childhood.

She is the eldest child of Michael Middleton, a businessman, and his wife Carole, a former air hostess, who own a five-bedroom house in Bucklebury, near Newbury, Berkshire.

Her parents run a mail-order company called Party Pieces and she has two younger siblings, James and Pippa, her maid of honour. She went to the £15,000-a-year Marlborough College, where she played netball and hockey.

Having met William at the University of St Andrews, in Scotland, where they initially both studied the history of art, Kate is on an equal footing with her future husband and is five months his senior.

She caught William's eye in the first year when she strutted down the catwalk at a charity student fashion show in a see-through, lace dress.

They lived near each other in halls of residence then moved into a townhouse in Fife with friends in their second year, where, as William said, their love "just sort of blossomed".

"When I first met Kate, I knew there was something very special about her," he said following their engagement announcement. "But we ended up being friends for a while and that was a good foundation."

Kate remembered being very nervous when she first set eyes on the prince. "I think I went bright red and sort of scuttled off!" she recalled.

The first confirmation that William and Kate were an item came when they were pictured sitting together on a ski lift at the royals' favourite Swiss ski resort of Klosters in 2004.

Their relationship apparently flourished during romantic weekends alone on the Queen's Balmoral estate and during a trip to Kenya in the summer of 2005.

After university, Kate was determined to set up a children's clothes firm. She joined the fashion chain Jigsaw in 2006, but left the job a year later to work for Party Pieces.

Her acceptance into the Royal Family was evident when she graced William's graduation ceremony as

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

on Army officer at Sandhurst. When she spotted him in his uniform, she apparently told him: "It's so, so sexy."

It hasn't been plain sailing, though. The pair split in 2007, which friends blamed on William's Army life.

"At the time I wasn't happy about it, but it made me stronger," Kate said.

The pair were rumoured to have rekindled their romance when she attended the Prince's memorial Concert for Diana in July 2007. Sitting apart in the audience, they were seen kissing at the after party.

While the world only learnt of their engagement last November, they had been planning it for "at least a year".

William said: "I wanted to concentrate on my flying and I couldn't have done this if I was still doing my training. We both just decided now was a really good time."

The prince proposed at a remote mountain lodge on holiday in Kenya.

William said: "I had done a little bit of planning to show my romantic side." This included carrying his mother's ring around in his rucksack.

The wedding may be less intimate than that, but will be just as romantic.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Married life for William and Kate will bring challenges, familiar territory and perhaps a new name for them both.

Royal men receive a title after their wedding, so William may be made a duke and Kate a duchess.

Despite their titles, they will slip back into their routine as a Forces couple after their honeymoon.

Flight Lieutenant Wales, as William is known, flies helicopters with the RAF Search and Rescue Force in Anglesey. While he rescues stricken seamen, Kate will be the dutiful wife at their remote North Wales home.

They could live in an apartment at a royal residence when in the capital, possibly at Kensington Palace or Buckingham Palace. And their first official overseas trip is being planned to Canada, from June 30 to July 8.

But the question is: "When will we hear the patter of tiny feet?"

William said: "We'll take it a step at a time. We'll sort of get over the marriage first and then maybe look at the kids. But obviously we want a family."

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They were worlds apart

William at Wetherby

Kate grew up in a middle-class family... but William was a young boy destined to be king

THE ROYAL

June 21, 1982: William Arthur Philip Louis is born at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, Central London.

January 1987: He becomes a day pupil at Wetherby School, in London.

September 1995: He begins his boarding-school life at Eton College.

August 1997: His mother Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash.

September 2001: William begins his art history degree at St Andrews University, he later switches to geography, graduating with a 2:1.

March 2002: He pays £200 to watch Kate model in a charity show.

December 2003: William and Kate become an item, it is believed.

THE ENGLISH ROSE

January 9, 1982: Catherine Elizabeth Middleton is born at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

May 1984: Her family moves to Jordan, where she attends a nursery.

September 1986: She enrols at St Andrews prep school, in Berkshire.

Spring 1996: Kate begins life as a boarder at Marlborough College.

September 2001: She goes to St Andrews University, urging William to stay when he finds it hard to settle.

June 2003: Kate attends William's 21st birthday at Windsor Castle.

March 2004: She joins William on the ski slopes of Klosters, making their romance public.

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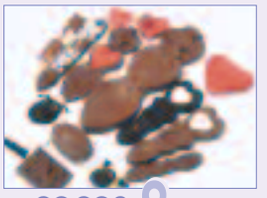

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All proceeds of the show, which is run entirely by volunteers from the club, go to charities such as the British Heart Foundation, the Air Ambulance and local children's charities.

Further details are available from the club's website at www.swccc.net.

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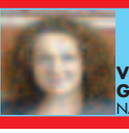
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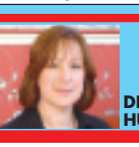
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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern:
I, **Philip Christian Edwards**, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority at Vale of Glamorgan Council for the grant of our Premises Licence at **Porthkerry Leisure Park, Porthkerry, Rhoose CF62 3ZP** and known as: **The Bulwarks.**
The application is for the sale and supply of alcohol, provision of late night food, and the provision of entertainment.
Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU no later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.
A copy of this application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Dated: April 18th, 2011

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Rhodri Phillips
of High Street, Cowbridge.
Died Thursday April 14, age 69.
Funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday April 28 at 12pm.

BELL
Marilyn
Peacefully on April 16 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, Marilyn of Llantwit Major.
Much-loved wife of Scott (former NFU secretary), devoted Mum to David and Catherine, greatly loved by all her family and friends.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday April 28, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

JONES
William Pritchard
Suddenly but peacefully on April 14 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Bill of Llantwit Major.
Beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved father of Emma and son-in-law Anthony, devoted Grandpa of Ewan. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wednesday April 27, service 1pm at St Illtuds Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

WHEATLEY
Mary
Peacefully with her family on April 14, Mary, much loved wife of Alan, loving mother of Rhiannon and Angharad, devoted Grandma of Joseph, mother-in-law of Andrew and Wijnand, daughter of the late Roma and Ieuan, sister-in-law to Rosslyn. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Wednesday April 27 at 2pm followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major CF32 0SB.

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Birthdays

Kara Healan
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April 26, 2011

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Barry Athletic start centenary season with St Fagans fixture

BARRY Athletic Bowls Club raise the curtain on their centenary year this Saturday with a match against St Fagans – the Athletic's first opponents 100 years ago.

Following a well attended "first wood" of the season at Barry Island last Saturday, members are ready to mark their 2011 milestone in style.

Playing a significant role in proceedings this summer will be a trio of specially elected "centenary match captains," in recognition of their achievements in the sport worldwide over many decades.

The three are Gareth Humphreys MBE, Russell Evans and Jim Morgan, and they will share the captaincy in six special matches during a busy season.

A browse through Athletic records reveals that the three – each one a magnificent bowler in their glory days – have brought a plethora of titles to the club at Commonwealth, British, Welsh and county levels.

Russell Evans is known as far afield as New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, not to mention the home countries, as the perfect 'gentleman of bowls' on and off the green, and is Barry Athletic's longest serving member, having joined the club in 1951.

His list of bowling honours would stretch the entire length of any green, such is his remarkable playing record.

Jim Morgan struck gold at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986 in the fours, to add to the bronze medal he won in the pairs at Edmonton, Canada, eight years earlier.

Jim, a strict disciplinarian on the green and a respected member of the sadly fading old school of bowlers, joined the Athletic in 1961.

He was a Welsh international from 1972 to 1988, and, in recent years, made a major contribution to the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association as a selector, team manager and executive member.

Jim also played a leading role in the Welsh Bowls Umpires Association for almost thirty years.

Gareth Humphreys, a doyen of Welsh bowls for many decades and an international from 1963 to 1978, represented Wales at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand and went on to become team manager of the national bowls squad.

Gareth has made an enormous contribution to his sport as a player, administrator and coaching advisor and two years ago was awarded an MBE for services to Welsh bowls.

He has been honoured by many organisations and has received the Welsh Sports Council and the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales scrolls of honour, both well deserved.

Gareth has also compiled and edited a comprehensive centenary brochure.

Barry Athletic, the only Welsh private greens club in the town, formed a centenary committee in 2008 with former Wales tourist chief executive Don Evans named as chairman.

The club also creates a unique record this season by appointing a brother and sister as 2011 team captains.

Robert and Bethan Horgan, both Welsh internationals, will lead the club on the domestic front.

Sprightly octogenarian club chairman, Alf Pidduck, believes the future of his club is bright judging by new youngsters showing exciting form at local and county level.

Barry Athletic are also fortunate in having Garry Gane as a supplier of vital funds with his successful bonus-ball scheme.

Centenary celebrations will conclude with a dinner at the Masonic Hall, Barry, in September.

CP

Sunday service

FRIENDS of the mediaeval listed Church of St Lawrence at Lavernock Point are holding an Easter Sunday service at 3pm on April 24, led by the Friends' honorary chaplain, the Rev Margaret Stark.

The organist will be Miss Anne Thomas. All welcome.

Refreshments can be obtained at the Marconi Club and Leisure Park. For enquiries, telephone 029 2070 7776.

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Bradley's Ystradowen 'win double' as point-to-point gears up for Bonvilston Grand National

THE Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles will be run at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases at Redlands Park, Bonvilston, on Saturday.

First held back in 1983, when it was won by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn aboard Donald Dix's *Mr Moneybags*, the race has produced many exciting finishes and the following year, 1984, *Loch Raven* dead-heated with *Wine Talk*.

There was another dead-heat in 1989 when *Katesville* dead-heated with the previous year's winner *Knock On The Head*, ridden by local rider Paul Hamer. Ian Brice, who lives within walking distance of the course, won it with *High Guardian* in 1998 and local rider Paul Sheard pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the history of the race when he scored on *Its Only Me* in 2006 when the race was shortened from four miles to three-and-a-half miles.

Perhaps the most famous rider to have won it is this year's Gold Cup winning rider Sam Waley-Cohen, who won it a record three times on the French-bred *Down* in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Last year, young Joseph Williams was successful on *Galtee View*, a former inmate of Llancarfan's Evan Williams's yard and the 13-year-old will be out to repeat last year's performance but could find things a lot harder this time.

The ladies' open is an AGA qualifier and the prolific *Chesnut Annie* and *Lady Myfanwy* are both entered.

Racing gets under way with the first of the seven races at 2pm with the members' race and Rae Jones's *Up There* should get backers off to a good start.

Meanwhile, Bradley Gibbs (16), who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, had plenty to smile about at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases at Ystradowen.

Bradley not only rode his first winner, but he also rode his first double! He began the day by riding his father David's *Cinaman* to victory over the pace-making *Little Miss Monty* in the Members' race and in the last race of the day – the Aged Horses Maiden – he was successful on Mrs Mary Davies's *Glencaum*, an eight-year-old bay mare trained by Mrs Davies's husband John who was celebrating his birthday.

Paul Miles and his wife Myfanwy landed both the Men's and Ladies' Open races. *Findlay's Find*, a five-year-old chestnut gelding, "bred to win a Derby" under Nick Williams according to Myfanwy, had a length-and-half to spare over *Little Shilling*, ridden by Tom David in the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race, and around 40 minutes later, their prolific mare *Lady Myfanwy*, ridden by Claire Hart, made one of her rare appearances at a Welsh meeting and came home a comfortable three lengths clear of *Micks Prospect*, ridden by Lucy Pearce.

In 'the restricted', the grey *Sherfield Don*, a 10-1 chance, owned by Neil Edwards and David Spear of Bargoed, made every post a winning one under Johnny England to win by a length from *Diamondaire* ridden by Tom David.

Not the easiest of horses to train, 10-year-old *Sherfield Don* cost his owners just £1,100 at the Ascot Sales a couple of years ago. Johnny England, who is attached to Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard, had celebrated his 20th birthday the day before.

David Brace's *Ask The Thatcher*, ridden by Tom David, took the 'intermediate' by 10 lengths from *Floridahal*, ridden by Nick Williams, after leading his three rivals a merry gallop throughout. A winner over the course three weeks earlier, *Ask The Thatcher* was two seconds slower than winning last time.

Bridgend builder Roger Willcox won the Young Horse Maiden with his ex-Irish point-to-pointer *Dunshane*, a five-year-old bay gelding trained by his son John. *Dunshane*, ridden by Josh Harris, was in a prominent position throughout and was left well clear when the chasing *Millys Delight*, who never looked like catching him, fell five fences from the finish.

Dunshane won by five lengths from the favourite *The Last Bullit* who came from a long way behind.

Rachel Leyshon (16), a former leading pony-racing competitor from the Vale of Glamorgan, notched up her first win at the Old Surrey & Burston meeting in Kent when she won the ladies' open race on her mother Dianne's *Shake The Bottle*, and Pyle's Sally Randell trained the winner of the classic Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire Point-To-Point when her *Surenaga*, ridden by Ben Poste, easily beat 25-1 outsider *Cedrus Libani*.

You can email your news/views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk (telephone 01446 773225).
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

We are now on Twitter - follow us @*gem_news* Find us on Facebook - *facebook.com/gemnews*

Woodside Cottage, Fonmon (Near Rhoose)

In the sleepy hamlet of Fonmon, and from the front facing windows, a beautiful aspect overlooking the well known Duck Pond, this sympathetically extended, detached thatched cottage is offered to the market. The sellers are most reluctant to sell, but it is hence a unique opportunity for a professional couple or indeed family to come in and enjoy the tranquility of this semi rural location.

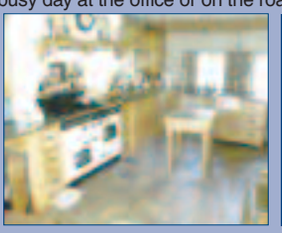
The accommodation is arranged over 2 storeys and to the ground floor comprises a superb main 20' sitting room with Inglenook style fireplace, a 20' kitchen/dining room with Range and doors to the rear garden, a lobby area and finally a separate rear facing lounge, also with door to the rear garden. To the first floor there are 3 genuine double bedrooms, plus a period style bathroom with claw foot roll-top bath - ideal for relaxation after a busy day at the office or on the road.

Outside there is a front garden, lawned rear garden and separate courtyard, plus there is a driveway for 2 vehicles to the rear.

The property has double glazing, oil heating and comes with an abundance of period features such as stone walls, beamed ceilings, oak/pine doors and encompassing stone walled boundary.

For those uncertain of the area the M4 at Junction 34 is just 20 minutes away and the cottage stands within the proverbial stones' throw of the stunning Fonmon Castle. The usual village amenities such as a convenience store, grocers, hairdresser and coffee shop are within a few minutes drive to the village of Rhoose, where there is also a reliable rail link to Cardiff.

If there are any questions please contact Andrew Fenton on 07847 888750 or 01446 711900



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Young rugby talent in the Vale is on show at Peterston-super-Ely TAG rugby festival

A TAG rugby festival for schools in the Vale was held just before the end of term, hosted by Peterston-super-Ely. A total of 19 teams took part, with more than 200 boys and girls demonstrating their running and passing skills in a well organised and successful event.

ABOVE: The hosts from Peterston-super-Ely.

Pictures by
IAN DIXON

ABOVE: The team from Saint Nicholas Primary

ABOVE: Wick and Marcross Primary.

ABOVE: The team from Sully Primary.

Barry Island Primary are on the attack.

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Success on both sides of the water!

LLANGEINOR HUNT PONY CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

2011 STARTED with success in mounted games with Tom Lucas qualifying for the Welsh team to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May.

Our tetrathletes have carried on winning on both sides of the Bristol Channel; March saw the culmination of the series of three triathlons (running, shooting and swimming at each competition) held in Monmouth.

Morgan Thompson, Aaron Giboney, Stephanie Brownbill, came fifth in their tadpole team with Stephanie winning best shoot/

The mini girls team, Molly-Anne Rees, Libby Jervis, Seren Allin and Mali Howell, came a well deserved first, helped along by Seren's best swim and best run of the 50-strong competitors in their age group of boys and girls.

Joel Hill, Roxy David-Smith and Tillymae Mullins all achieved their personal best scores.

Sophia Harpin, Joanna Wilkins, Alice Tudor all did well in their classes, with Georgia Kemeys coming fifth overall and team second, and Jack Wilkins fourth overall in the senior classes.

It was then off to Pembrey in glorious sunshine for the first tetrathlon of the year when the riding phase is brought in.

Once again, the mini team of Molly-Anne Rees, Libby Jervis, Seren Allin and Mali Howell showed their riding skills over the cross-country course, beating stiff competition from riders from Pembroke, Monmouth, Carmarthen, Pentyrch, Curre and Llangibby.

Jack Wilkins came first in the senior boys class, and a good day was had by William Jervis, Alice Tudor, Ellie and Joel Hill.

Tom Lucas qualified for the Welsh team to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Stephanie Brownbill

Mali and Seren at Pembrey

Across the channel, Stephanie Brownbill was competing at the Weston Harriers triathlon.

She achieved best shoot with a score of 920 (for which she got a special mention at the awards for the best shoot of the event), and she managed a personal best swim of 105 metres, coming 10th in the run.

Her team came third and she came second as an individual (just missing out on first place by 32 points).

Marion Elliott, district commissioner for Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club said: "We are thrilled with the success of the club so early in the year, and we were particularly pleased when five members Camille Wilson-Jenkins, Katie Davies, Imogen Rees, Shauna Evans, Bronwyn Wictome, passed their C test, held at Talygarn Equestrian Centre, with flying colours.

"Our members are busy practicing for the area horse and pony care competition to be held at Pontcanna, Cardiff, and team jumping locally, also for the Prince Philip Cup mounted games area competition which is being held this year in Llandrindod Wells on May 8.

"Our next big event is the Llangeinor Hunt Point to Point, held at Laleston on May 14.

"We have strong connections with Llangeinor Hunt and many of our members are in training for the pony race which is held after the adult races.

"This is a good day out for members and their families, as well as being an opportunity to show support to Llangeinor Hunt, of which the pony club has had links with for many years," she added. **ME**

Camille Wilson-Jenkins, Katie Davies, Imogen Rees, Shauna Evans, and Bronwyn Wictome, passed their C test, held at Talygarn Equestrian Centre.

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SEVEN HEAVEN FOR RUGBY STARLETS

THE annual Vale of Glamorgan schools' rugby sevens tournament saw Cowbridge Comprehensive School triumph in three out of six age group titles, continuing a season of local rugby dominance for the school.

Held at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry, the competition featured the cream of the county's young rugby talent in the small sided version of the game, as all of the Vale's secondary schools – other than Bryn Hafren girls' school – took part.

Cowbridge emerged victorious in the year 8, 9 and 11 tournaments, and were runners-up in the three remaining age categories, beaten by Stanwell (year-7 and 10) and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg (seniors).

The Cowbridge boys' sevens success was the latest in a year of remarkable rugby glory for the school, with them also winning the Vale schools' 15-a-side league titles in years 7 up to 10, as well as the 15-a-side cup competitions in years 8, 9 and 10.

LEFT: Rugby sevens tournament hosts Ysgol Bro Morgannwg on the attack against Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The Vale of Glamorgan's rugby development officer, Matt Silva, commented: "Rugby in the Vale is at an all-time high at this present time with most schools fielding sides at every age group, and it is paramount that we have a league structure and a Cup finals day in 15-a-side and sevens as it gives the pupils a goal to aim for.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to all the secondary school PE teachers who contributed to making this tournament a success and a special thank you to Rhys Beynon at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg for all his hard work and commitment in organising these events."

LEFT: St Richard Gwyn Catholic School looking to break against Barry Comprehensive (green).

Scorpions feel full force of Lions' roar!

South Wales Scorpions	22
Swinton Lions	74

CO-OPERATIVE Championship 1 league leaders Swinton Lions survived an early scare in Neath when they were 18–0 down to South Wales Scorpions after just 11 minutes, but they quickly fought their way back into the game and once they took control, they showed why they are top.

The game was just 30 seconds old when Jamie Murphy broke through to score under the sticks to give Scorpions the lead after Ashley Bateman sprinted down the right wing when he received the ball from kick-off; Lewis Reece converted.

Steve Parry wriggled his way through the defence to score the second on seven minutes after debutant Paul Raftery had been stopped short, and Reece goaled again.

The third was scored on 11 minutes when Casey Bromilow leapt on his own grubber kick after it had rebounded off a Lions player.

The second half was all Swinton as the Welsh hardly had a look-in, but Scorpions didn't give up and got back on the board on 63 minutes.

Reece then grounded but failed to convert.

However, the Lions continued the scoring to conclude an emphatic victory. **IG**

Colin Hillman walk

SOUTH Wales Police RFC and Matthew Hillman will shortly announce the route and date for a charity walk in memory of Colin Hillman 'Rugby's True Gentleman' with proceeds going to Y Bwthyn Newydd at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The walk with be free to take part in and fancy dress will be optional. Keep a look out for more information in The GEM and at local rugby clubs.

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05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 13 XVVT-i Colour Collectionn 3-dr hatchback in eclipse black with black/red interior, body coloured bumpers, power steering, alloy wheels, radio/cd, only 65,000 miles **£4,495**

05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles **£4,495**

04 04 PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE. In silver with black leather interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, CD, alloy wheels, only 45,000 miles **£4,995**

04 04 FORD Street Ka 1.6 2-dr convertible in French blue with midnight black interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, electric mirors, only 49,170 miles **£4,495**

04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles ...**£3,495**

02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles **£8,995**

03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air cn, traction control system, only 55,200 miles **£9,495**

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Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 1 April and 31 May 2011. Terms and conditions apply. *5.9% Finance available on all MAZDA CX-7 models. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantors/Intermediaries may be required. Mazda Financial Services PO Box 168. Model shown: Mazda CX-7 2.2 Sport Tech Diesel. OTR price £27,560. Model shown features optional Mica/Metallic/Pearlescent paint (£595). On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. *Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print.

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*Offer available on AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i manual 5 door, AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i MultiMode 5 door, Yaris TR 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual and Auris TR 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual with nil advance payment. Subject to availability. Please note that 20,000 miles per year are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer subject to change on 30 June 2011. †Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. The 5 year warranty is a 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. To maintain the warranty, customers must service their vehicle in accordance with the standard Toyota service schedule for the full 5 year period.

AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 61.4 (4.6). CO_2 Emissions 105g/km.
AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i MultiMode Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 61.4 (4.6). CO_2 Emissions 106g/km.
Yaris TR 1.33 VVT-i manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 54.3 (5.2). CO_2 Emissions 120g/km.
Auris TR 1.33 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.9 (5.9). CO_2 Emissions 136g/km.

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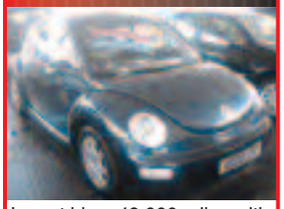
Model shown Yaris T Spirit 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £10,995, metallic paint £420 extra. Price includes £1,500 customer saving and £500 Centre contribution from the manufacturer's list price. Price correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, 1 year road fund licence & £55 first registration fee. £0 road tax, refers to vehicles first tax disc taken at first registration. Subject to availability. †6 months free fuel offer is equivalent of £548.15 based on a prepaid Visa card. Value based on official fuel consumption of 55.4mpg (Combined) for a 1.0 Yaris T Spirit Manual over an average of 5,000 miles (Source: Parkers Guide - www.parkers.co.uk); fuel cost based on UK average unleaded 95 Octane Petrol of 133.6p as per "www.petrolprices.com" on Monday 21st March 2011. Fuel offer available on new retail Yaris sales when ordered between 1st April and 30th April 2011 and registered by 30th June 2011. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. *Free servicing offer and 6.9% APR representative only available for new retail orders of model shown between 1st April and 30th June 2011 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ, before 30th September 2011 on a 3 year Access Toyota (PCP) plan. Inline rates may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Free servicing offer includes the first three scheduled services at an official Toyota Centre (every 30,000 miles or 12 months whichever is first). Terms and conditions apply.

Yaris T Spirit 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 45.6 (6.2), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO2 Emissions 118g/km.

06 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0



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SWIMMING SUCCESS FOR CLUB'S AMATEUR MEMBERS

SUNDAY, April 10 saw a large contingent of Barry Amateur Swimming Club (ASC) members participate in City Of Cardiff's Closed Invitational swim meet.

Swimmers were from a wide age group, the youngest being eight and the oldest 15.

The swim meet races were split into single year age groups, with up to 40 swimmers participating in each age group.

Medals were awarded for the top three places, so it was a tremendous effort for anyone to win one of these medals or indeed finish inside the top 10.

Barry ASC can be proud of the effort from all their swimmers, the majority of whom managed to beat their personal bests in the majority of their races, which is a great measure of success and progress.

With all the Barry swimmers and parents sitting together throughout the day, there was a togetherness created with everyone cheering on every Barry ASC swimmer, and this had a positive influence on all swimmers.

There were numerous positives for the Barry ASC swimmers with Luke Birnage gaining first, second and third place; Jonathan Bowden finished in the top 10 in each event and set personal bests throughout; Shaun Bowden won every race – six first places, while Ryan Connor achieved two first places and a second.

Barry swimmers Declan Ewington, Ffion McCulloch and Luke Birnage.

Declan Ewington won two second place medals after moving up an age group, while Ffion Goodland finished in or around the top 10 in each event to continue her recent progress.

Llinos Goodland achieved personal bests in each event and finished in the top half of her age group; Jonathan Haggett finished inside the top 10 in each event and nearly broke the 30-second barrier for the 50m Free; Amy McAndrew gained personal bests and finished in or around 10th place in the large 11-year age group, while Elizabeth McCulloch swam in seven events with a best of fifth place and still was still able to set personal bests.

Ffion McCulloch, one of our youngest swimmers, entering just her second meet outside Barry, gained two firsts; Jack Parry finished in or around the top 10 in each event; Isabelle Peter set personal bests in several events and finished inside the top 10 on several occasions in her age group of up to 40 entrants.

Ffion Vickers set personal bests and finished in the top 10 on several occasions in the same age group; Bethan Williams finished in the top 10 in four of her five events and beat her 200 IM personal best by some 13 seconds, while Briana Williams in just her second meet, set personal bests in each event.

In all, Barry ASC gained 11 first places, three seconds and two thirds.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre and Cardiff International Pool. For more information, look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

RW

WELSH GOLF NEWS

Vale golfer Rhys is well placed in order of merit

VALE golfer Rhys Pugh is in third place in the Pinnacle Golf Union of Wales Order of Merit, trailing leader James Frazer by 94 points.

Oliver Farr is in second place, and he hit back emphatically after the Duncan Putter event with a clean sweep of trophies at the Trubshaw Cup.

He scored rounds of 69 and 66 to win the Carmarthenshire Open at Ashburnham, and rounds of 69 and 66 at Tenby to win the Tenby Golden Eagle.

His total of 14 under par saw him lift the Trubshaw Cup for the second year running and he collected 150 Pinnacle Order of Merit points.

Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) and Michael Hearne (Southerndown) tied for second place and collected 75 Pinnacle points each.

Pugh scored rounds of 71, 72, 68 and 70, while Hearne scored 68, 70, 71 and 72 for a four-round total of 281 strokes.

The next Pinnacle Order of Merit event is the Lytham Trophy at Royal Lytham & St Annes from April 29 – May 1.

Order of Merit positions: 1 James Frazer (Pennard) 188; 2 Oliver Farr (Ludlow) 150; 3 Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) 94.33; 4 Ben Westgate (Trevose) 93 5 Michael Hearne (Southerndown); 75 6 Joe Vickery (Newport); 71 7= Mark Lewis (Glamorganshire) 23.33.

JUNIOR ORDER OF MERIT

RHYS PUGH has a big lead in the Welsh junior order of merit table, sponsored by Hugh James, after his strong early season showing in senior events.

However, it was Jack Bush of Morlais Castle who claimed the Central Wales Boys at Aberdovey and Borth & Ynyslas, with rounds of 69 and 72.

Bush claimed 100 Hugh James points. In second place were Oliver Dickson (Pennard) and James Casey (Newport) who each collected 50 points.

At the Peter McEvoy Trophy, Rhys Pugh scored rounds of 71, 71, 69 and 68 to finish third in his defence of the trophy and collected 120 Hugh James points.

The next event is the South Wales Boys Championship at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, April 26–28.

Order of merit positions: 1 Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan) 320; 2 Jack Bush (Morlais Castle) 140; 3 Zach Galliford (Borth & Ynyslas) 60; 4 Oliver Baker (Cardiff) 52; 12= Delon Hau (Vale of Glamorgan) 18; 14= Sam McCarthy (Vale of Glamorgan) 13.5

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GEM sport

TEAM HANG ON AT THE DEATH

Nail-biting victory for Cowbridge RFC

LAST week, it was a try in the last minute that secured victory; this week, it was hanging on at the death to gain another victory – Old Penarthians this time, by a three-point margin.

On a perfect day for running rugby, Cowbridge started superbly. Tackling strongly from the start, within five minutes Cowbridge were in the lead.

A fine interception by centre Luke Boys led to Rhys Llewellyn sprinting over from 40 yards. Cowbridge went further in the lead three minutes later, a penalty resulting from some slick interpassing between forwards and backs.

Old Pens came close soon after with an interception, but Cowbridge repelled the attack and were soon back in their 22. A Steve Birchenough lineout and good hands in the backs saw full-back Huw Lougher burst through for a second Cowbridge try, well converted.

This was beginning to look like a romp for Cowbridge, but mistakes started to creep in and Old Pens soon narrowed the margin with a penalty and a converted try.

Cowbridge responded with a penalty but a clearance by Cowbridge soon after gifted Old Pens a second try.

With half-time looming, Cowbridge found their drive again. A penalty hit the post and then a scrum 20 yards out saw the ball go to Huw Lougher, whose delicate chip was gathered by scrum-half Tom Hanks for a much needed try and conversion.

Half-time score: Old Pens 15 Cowbridge 25.

Old Pens were soon on the scoreboard in the second half with a converted try, but that was the last score of the game.

Cowbridge came close to scoring several times, twice held up over the line. Strong running by wings Aaron Glasser and Liam Rowlands kept Old Pens on their toes and Cowbridge did well in the last five minutes, running the ball out of defence and showing good discipline.

Another vital victory, and another one needed this Saturday when we take on Ferndale at the Athletic Field, kick-off at 2.30pm. The boys really need your support, so come along.

RV/RK

BOWLERS ARE BACK!

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club started its new outdoor season on April 1 with a few practise roll-ups.

On April 9, the men had an annual friendly against Gelligaled, with a win on three rinks and the match was on by 80–60.

Captain for the day, Dennis Snelling's rink won 19–17 and Byron Richards won 15–13.

However, the best win was by David Jones' rink, which included a new bowler in Gerwyn Watkins, 90-year-old Eric Sewell, and also Brian Kent, with a win by 33–15. The only losing rink was Roger Barwick's at 13–15.

On Thursday, April 14, the ladies, with new captain May Jones, entertained Pencoed and had a good win by 38–17.

Joan Bradley's rink won 13–5 and Anne Jarvis' rink won 16–13, with May's rink just losing 9–10.

On Saturday, April 16, the club had a members' mixed friendly match, with 40 taking part, a really good turn out.

The two captains, May Jones and Norman Wilkinson, picked two teams and played in a very exciting match on five rinks, with the winners May's team by 90–89.

May Jones' rink beat Byron Richards 24–14; Joan Bradley's rink beat David Jones 17–15; and Shirley Wilkinson's rink beat Dennis Snelling's 17–12.

The winners for Norman's team were Roger Barwick over Pat Davey's 30–20; and norman Wilkinson's over Anne Jarvis' 18–12.

A really good afternoon enjoyed by all, finished with tea, sandwiches and cake, made by the ladies.

NJW

Laurie makes Welsh ladies cricket squad

Laurie Thomas – 'great potential'.

MANY congratulations to Laurie Thomas, who has been selected in the Welsh ladies under-13 cricket squad for 2011.

Laurie is a member of Cowbridge Cricket Club and captain of the comprehensive school ladies cricket team. She has represented Cardiff and the Vale ladies for the past few seasons and due to her hard work and commitment during the winter, where she has received one-to-one coaching from Huw James, will now follow in the footsteps of another product of Cowbridge, namely Bethan Moorcraft.

The Welsh ladies will play nine games during the season against counties from the west of England, with the first being against Somerset this week.

In August, Laurie will also attend a three-day cricket festival, held at Malvern College, a place she will be accustomed to having represented the Welsh ladies there last year.

Cowbridge Cricket Club's under-13 coach, Jon Smart, said: "This is excellent news for Laurie. She works hard, is fully committed and has great cricketing potential. She certainly deserves this recognition. We wish her well for the forthcoming season."

JS

PICTURED: (Left to right) Jac Burne, Ceri Vaughan Jones, Harri Howkins and Harry Holton.

Tennis triumph for the Cowbridge youngsters

COWBRIDGE Tennis Club's current under-8s team played its first match of the season last Sunday – and came away with a victory.

They played Swansea Lawn Tennis and Squash Raquets Club and won 9–7.

The team consisted of Jac Burne, Harri Howkins, Harry Holton and Ceri Vaughan Jones, and they each played four singles matches.

The tennis was of a good standard, with mainly over-arm serves. Some excellent rallies were seen and a wide range of shots played, including some cheeky sidespin returns from Cowbridge.

After the match the players retreated to the clubhouse for sandwiches and refreshments.

S-EJ

Llantwit's efforts in vain as a bonus point missed

TONYREFAIL	30
LLANTWIT MAJOR	22

AGAINST a good Tonyrefail side, Llantwit gave their all and after 70 minutes were just one point behind at 16-15, and causing problems for their hosts.

However, they conceded a couple of killer tries and despite scoring a cracking try with the last move of the match, they were unable to salvage the bonus point which their efforts deserved.

Llantwit got off to a great start with fly-half Lawrence Howley chipping over the heads of the Tonyrefail centres for wing Peter Thomas to chase and gather a favourable bounce to score in the corner.

Tonyrefail hit back immediately with a penalty and though Llantwit continued to threaten, Tonyrefail rode their luck and midway through the half, took the lead with a second penalty.

On the half-hour, Tonyrefail scored a corner try to make it 11-5, then an excellent burst down the middle saw Llantwit slip to 16-5 at half-time.

Llantwit lost the services of No 8 Carter just before half-time with flanker Mike Myers limping off shortly afterwards and centre James Vaughan came on to play second row, with second team regular Ron Clayfield adding his experience, and both had fine games.

From a close-range lineout, Clayfield, Davies, Griffiths and Pearce inched closer and closer before Dan Daw, now at No 8, powered over at the posts with a big assist from prop Carl Watts. Howley converted to make it 16-12, with just over five minutes played in the second half.

This lifted Llantwit, and with some huge kicks downfield, Llantwit were able to not only clear their lines but exert pressure.

Midway through the half, Howley kicked a penalty to make it 16-15 and although still struggling in the scrum, Llantwit were back in contention.

The next score was always going to be crucial and in the 71st minute, it was Tonyrefail who broke through for an excellent team try.

In desperation, Llantwit panicked and instead of using the big boot that had served them well, an attempt to run out of their 22 ended in disaster with a simple intercept try – a killer blow.

Again Llantwit showed courage, determination and skill to battle back and score a spectacular try with Marcus Pearce getting the touchdown. Howley converted from the touchline, with the last kick of the game, to leave Llantwit just short of a bonus point.

This week, Llantwit entertain Porth, with both sides in with a shout of the title mathematically.

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